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LONDON, PARIS, KYIV TO WORK ON CEASEFIRE PLAN FOR UKRAINE WAR

The three countries will present the new ceasefire plan to the United States, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Sunday

STARMER STRESSES RESTORING PEACE TALKS

The European leaders are in London to discuss ending the war. The meeting has been overshadowed by the extraordinary scolding of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy by Donald Trump, who lambasted him on Friday. Starmer said he is currently focused on being a bridge to restore peace talks, rather than "ramp up the rhetoric"

'EUROPEAN FORCE TO BE SENT TO UKRAINE'

- Sunday's summit is likely to include talks on establishing a European military force to be sent to Ukraine to underpin a ceasefire. Starmer said it would involve "a coalition of the willing" | **P9**
- Next steps: Arming Ukrainians, including a European element to guarantee security and providing a "US backstop" to check Putin

€200 bn

LIKELY TO BE RELEASED BY EU TO FUND UKRAINE'S EFFORTS

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Spl court orders FIR against Buch

Anti-Corruption Bureau told to book ex-Sebi chief, 5 others for alleged stock market fraud

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI & BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

A day after Madhabi Puri Buch demitted office as the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), a special court here directed registration of an FIR against her and five others in connection with alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations.

The order was passed by special judge Shashikant Eknathrao Bangar on Saturday on a petition filed by Thane-based journalist Sapan Shrivastava. Seeking a court-monitored investigation, the petitioner alleged large-scale financial fraud, corruption, and regulatory violations in the listing of a company.

The court said prime-facie it shows there have been violations and there are documents to support the same; therefore, the Anti Corruption Bureau should file an FIR against the accused, it ordered.

Apart from Buch, the officials against whom the court has ordered registration of the FIR are three whole-time members of Sebi—Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan G, and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney—BSE chief executive Sundararaman Ramamurthy and former BSE chairman Pramod Agarwal.

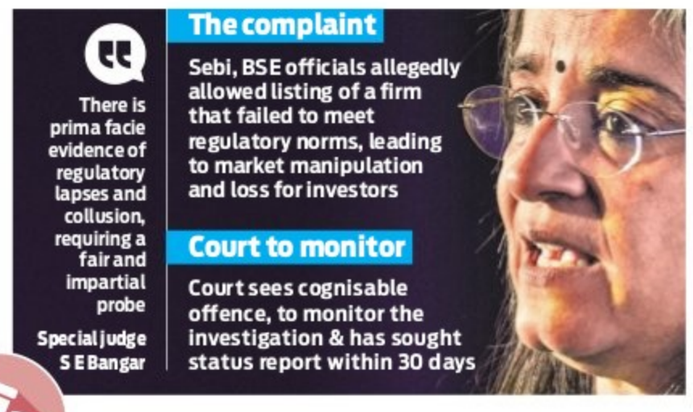
Responding to the court order, Sebi said it will challenge the it. In a statement issued on Sunday, the markets regulator said it was not given a chance to represent itself and that none of the officials named in the petition was in their current positions when the alleged misdeeds happened.

Terming the complaint 'frivolous', Sebi alleged that the petitioner is known for filing such petitions in the past. "The applicant is known to be a frivolous and habitual litigant, with previous applications being dismissed by the Court, with imposition of costs in some cases," it said.

Echoing similar views, the BSE said: "The application is frivolous and vexatious in nature," adding that the court has not issued any notice or granted any opportunity to place the facts on record.

In a late-evening statement, the BSE said the company in question is Cals Refineries, listed in 1994, and the officials named in the application were not in their respective positions at the time of listing and were not connected with the company at all.

"BSE is initiating necessary and appropriate legal steps in this regard," it added.



There is prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion, requiring a fair and impartial probe

Special Judge S E Bangar

The complaint

Sebi, BSE officials allegedly allowed listing of a firm that failed to meet regulatory norms, leading to market manipulation and loss for investors

Court to monitor

Court sees cognisable offence, to monitor the investigation & has sought status report within 30 days

No rift among Cong leaders in Kerala, says Rahul Gandhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday sought to dispel the notion there is a rift among the party's leaders in Kerala following its MP Shashi Tharoor's recent remarks praising the achievements of CPM-led government in the state, saying they stand united.

His comment came in the wake of a meeting between the Congress' central leadership and the party's leaders from Kerala at Indira Bhawan on Friday to discuss the strategy and the way forward ahead of next year's assembly polls.

Following Tharoor's remarks, the Congress brass issued a warning that strong action will be taken against those making comments that go against the party's interests.

Posting a picture of the Kerala leaders' interaction with the media after the meeting on Facebook, Rahul wrote: "They stand as one, united by the light of purpose ahead." His post was accompanied by the hashtag Team Kerala.

The three-hour meeting at the Congress's Indira Bhawan headquarters on Friday had discipline, unity and the strengthening of the state organisation as its running theme.

Sources said Gandhi asked leaders present at the meeting to be very careful and not to do or say anything that does not toe the party line.

In the meeting, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge laid stress on discipline, ensuring unity and filling up vacant posts to strengthen the party's Kerala unit.

THAROOR U-TURN ON KERALA STORY

Days after his praise of the growth of Kerala's startup ecosystem, Shashi Tharoor has taken a U-turn, saying the growth of startups should not remain "confined to paper" alone | **P5**

NEP ROW

Two-language policy will be in interest of Kannada: Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

SCHOOL Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said here on Sunday that the two-language policy is a technical issue, but the government will take all necessary measures to uphold Kannada in the state.

He was responding to a question on a demand from a section of society to implement the two-language policy in the state on the lines of Tamil Nadu. He said that some students who come to Karnataka from other states and enrol for Class 8 cannot be forced to learn Kannada as they would have never studied the language before.

"They will face hardships if we make Kannada compulsory for them. We must ensure a conducive environment for them to learn the language. This is a technical issue. Whatever the decision we take will be in the interest of the Kannada language," he said.

"As the State Education Policy is being enforced, we will ensure that any decision regarding language is taken carefully," he said.

ECI allays concern over duplicate voter ID numbers

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) has moved to calm concerns over duplicate voter ID numbers, clarifying that identical EPIC numbers don't indicate fake voters. The issue came to light after several social media posts flagged the issue and claimed that electors in different states were being assigned similar EPIC numbers. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also raised similar concerns.

In its response, ECI said while some electors may share the same elector photo identity card (EPIC) number, their demographic details, assembly constituency, and polling booth information differ, and that they can only cast their votes at their designated polling stations in their respective constituencies. The duplicate EPIC numbers were caused by a decentralized and manual mechanism used before the electoral roll database was shifted to the ERONET platform. "This resulted in certain State/UT CEO offices using the same EPIC alphanumeric series and leaving a scope for the possibility of duplicate EPIC numbers being allotted to electors in different constituencies in different states," ECI said.

To address this, the commission has said it will assign unique EPIC numbers to registered electors, ensuring that any cases of duplicate EPIC numbers are rectified.

U'KHAND AVALANCHE TOLL RISES TO 8, RESCUE ACT OVER

Rescuers on the job in Chamoli district on Sunday | EXPRESS

Dhami condoles deaths

Dehradun: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief at the death of eight workers in the avalanche in Chamoli district

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

THE bodies of the last four trapped labourers were pulled out from the site of the avalanche-hit Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp in Chamoli on Sunday, taking the death toll to eight as authorities ended the nearly 60-hour rescue operation.

Army doctors said 46 workers who were rescued on Saturday have been brought to the military hospital in Jyotirmath. Two of them have been referred to AIIMS, Rishikesh. Three of the workers are in critical condition.

The body of the last missing worker has also been retrieved, said Army PRO Lt Col Manish Shrivastava.

The avalanche hit the BRO camp between Mana and Badrinath on Friday, burying the 54 workers inside eight containers and a shed. Earlier, it was believed that the total number of trapped labourers was 55 but one of them was on unauthorised leave and had reached home safely.

More than 200 personnel from the disaster management authority, ITBP, BRO, NDRF, SDRF, IAF, district administration, health department and fire brigade were engaged in the rescue operation. Located three kilometres from Badrinath, Mana is the last village on the India-Tibet border at a height of 3,200 metres.

Among the deceased are four from Uttar Pradesh: Jitendra Singh, Manjeet Yadav, Alok Yadav, and Ashok Paswan; two from Himachal Pradesh: Mahender Pal and Ramesh Chand; and two from Uttarakhand: Anil Kumar and Arvind Kumar Singh.

DIG Vartika files plaint against IGP Roopa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

INTERNAL Security Division (ISD) Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Administration, Vartika Katiyar, has alleged that ISD Inspector General of Police (IGP)–Operations, Roopa D, conspired against her and illegally took photographs of documents in her office chamber using low-ranking officers.

Vartika filed a complaint with Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh on February 20. She alleged that on September 6, 2024, Head Constable Manjunath and Home Guard Mallikarjun, acting on Roopa's orders, entered her chamber without permission.

Mallikarjun took the key from the control room and opened the chamber, while Manjunath took photographs of the files, and sent them to the IGP via WhatsApp.

Vartika's personal assistant Kiran Kumar H had instructed Manjunath not to open the chamber without the DIG's knowledge. However, Manjunath, acting on IGP's orders, took photos of the files.

The DIG said she only recently became aware of this issue. Learning about it, she questioned Kiran, Manjunath and Mallikarjun, and they admitted to opening her chamber without authorisation and accessing the files on the instructions of Roopa. She stated that her chamber contains confidential documents and official records.

CONTINUED ON: P3

UNBEATEN INDIA MARCH ON

MEN IN BLUE BEAT NEW ZEALAND BY 44 RUNS TO FINISH ON TOP OF GROUP A ON SUNDAY. A LOOK...

Varun Chakravarthy (L) celebrates a wicket on Sunday | AP

VARUN TAKES FIFER

In what was his first game of the tournament, Varun Chakravarthy took five wickets for 42 runs and in the process helped India defend the target of 250. On the slowish Dubai surface, the spinner from TN rattled thje New Zealand middle-order to ensure India remain unbeaten.

PROTEAS FACE BLACK CAPS TEST

With the loss against India, New Zealand finished second in Group A. They will be flying to Pakistan, along with South Africa who topped the Group B, where the two teams play the second semifinal in Lahore on Wednesday.

SEMIFINAL LINE-UP

INDIA VS AUSTRALIA, DUBAI, TUESDAY

SOUTH AFRICA VS NEW ZEALAND, LAHORE, WEDNESDAY

Heat is on, don't step out from noon to 3: Health dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

WITH temperatures soaring across Karnataka, the state Health Department has issued a heatwave advisory, urging people to take precautions, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm, when the risk of heat-related illnesses is the highest.

The department emphasised that people should stay hydrated, covered and indoors whenever possible. It also stressed on a first-aid response plan for heat-related emergencies at work places.

The advisory suggested drinking water frequently, even if not thirsty, as thirst is not a reliable indicator of dehydration. It emphasised steps like carrying drinking water when travelling, consuming oral rehydration solution (ORS) or homemade drinks like lemon water, buttermilk or fruit juices with added salt and water-rich foods such as watermelon, muskmelon, oranges, grapes, cucumbers and lettuce.

To reduce the risk of heatstroke, the department suggested limiting outdoor activities to early mornings or evenings when temperatures are lower. "Avoid difficult activities between 12 noon and 3 pm. If outdoor work is necessary, reschedule it to before 11 am or after 4 pm. For unavoidable outdoor events, set up shaded areas, ensure air circulation and arrange drinking water facilities," it mentioned.

WHO IS AT HIGHER RISK?: P5

AT LONG LAST

After 78 yrs, it's freedom from darkness for Palar hadi tribals

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

IT is celebration time at Palar hadi along the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu as the tribal settlement with 75 houses that lived in darkness with kerosene lamps and torch lights for decades has finally got electricity supply.

The hadi, one of forest brigand Veerappan's hideouts and situated on the banks of the Palar River, had not got power all these years as the forest department had objected to erecting poles or drawing power lines fearing it would threaten wildlife as the region has a high movement of elephants, sambar, deer and other animals. The families had to buy kerosene in the black market at nearby Govindapadi and Kolathur village in Salem district or Gopinatham, the brigand's village.

"Madappa (Lord Mahadeshwara) has been kind this Shivarathri as the village has electricity supply. Our children and fellow villagers are happy, hoping that the electric bulbs will be lit anytime and we can say goodbye to kerosene lanterns," said Madamma, a tribal.

A tribal woman thanks Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa for power supply to her hamlet | EXPRESS

Another villager, Murgesh, skipped work to attend the event to commission power supply. He said they want the panchayat to erect streetlights to protect them from elephants which visit their hadi almost every day.

He said their relatives and friends from many tribal villages have congregated at the hadi to celebrate.

The area has 22 tribal villages that are in darkness and don't have basic facilities like power supply, roads and drinking water. The Chamundeshwari Electric Supply Company (CESCOM) took up the initiative in December last year to provide power supply at a cost of Rs 41 crore.

CESCOM former managing director G Sheela said they managed to convince forest authorities to lay underground power cables to all the 75 villages.

EXPRESS READ

15-day K'taka budget session starts today

Bengaluru: The 15-day budget session will commence from Monday with CM Siddaramaiah presenting his 16th budget on March 7. The session is likely to be turbulent with the opposition BJP and JDS trying to attack the government over the state's finances | **P4**

Private lunar lander aces moon touchdown

Cape Canaveral (US): A private lunar lander carrying a drill, vacuum and other experiments for NASA touched down on the moon on Sunday. Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lander descended from lunar orbit on autopilot, aiming for the slopes of an ancient volcanic dome.

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 03.03.2025 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Uttarayana • **Ritu:** Sishira • **Masa:** Phalguna • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Chathurthi 10.18 am • **Nakshatra:** Revathi 10.31 am • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am • **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 19°C | MAX 34°C — **FORECAST** Broken clouds.

Sunrise 06.34 am | Sunset 06.28 pm | Moonrise 08.11 am | Moonset 08.48 pm

Idli 'dip': Sales sink at darshinis after inspections

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

DAYS after Food Safety and Drug Administration Department (FDA) tested idli samples across Karnataka, sale of the popular breakfast staple dropped at Bengaluru's darshinis.

When TNIE visited multiple breakfast joints across areas like Malleswaram, RT Nagar, and Jayanagar, sellers told that while general sales are not hit with regular customers continuing to visit, many are hesitant to order idlis, with some specifically asking if cloth is being used in the preparation. Restaurants however were aware of the recent inspections and maintained that they use only stainless steel and a muslin cloth for cooking and are maintaining strict hygiene standards.

Prajval Shetty, the owner of a Darshini restaurant in Malleswaram, said that while idlis are freshly prepared throughout the day, customer preferences have shifted since

news of the inspection surfaced, leading to a dip in sales. "Earlier, people ordered dosas and idlis in almost equal numbers, but now they prefer dosas, believing they are safer since the preparation process is visible," he said.

Customers told TNIE that they would purchase idlis when a family member fell sick, as it is light and easy to digest. However, with the latest news, they are now more cautious about their breakfast choices. Another customer, Megha, said that when dining out, she would now ask about the food preparation process to make sellers aware that the public is informed and can raise complaints if hygiene standards are not maintained.

Apart from idlis, many people also told that they have started avoiding pastries and cakes following previous news report. Moreover, one of the most relished street foods, masala puri, is also seeing a decline in preference after the FDA inspections revealed that green peas, that are used in the dish as one of the main ingredients, are often artificially coloured.

RAJ BHAVAN AND SOUDHAS ON BBMP'S TAX DEFAULTERS' LIST

250 other govt offices owe crores in tax dues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS the government pushes citizens to settle property tax dues and even auctions properties to recover pending amounts, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has also served notices to over 250 government buildings including Karnataka's key powerhouses-- Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha and the Raj Bhavan.

Property tax notices have been served regularly to government offices just as they are to private properties, but arrears continue to accumulate with no response from the government, claimed sources from the BBMP.

While there is no exact data on the total pending property tax arrears by the power corridors and government offices, sources estimate the amount runs into crores, as taxes have remained unpaid for years.

The One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, which offered relief by waiving compounding interest on arrears and reducing penalties by 50%, was open to government offices as well. However, none availed of the benefit, and the scheme has ended now.

BBMP is sending repeated reminders to government offices to clear property tax dues, the source said adding that a list of top property tax defaulters from the government is being prepared for each of the eight BBMP zones.

While the civic body is enforcing legal provisions to recover dues from major property tax defaulters (residential and non-residential properties) through the 'distress sale of their immovable properties,' it is yet to take similar action against government offices beyond issuing notices, the source added.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath was unavailable for comments.

RAMADAN DELIGHTS

Samosas and other treats on sale on the first day of Ramadan in Shivajinagar, on Sunday. The holy month of fasting began on Sunday, after sighting of the crescent moon on Saturday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Bird flu scare: B'lureans shun chicken, eggs; officials say no reason to panic

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

WITH cases of bird flu reported among poultry in Raichur, Chikkaballapur, and Ballari, chicken sales and prices have taken a hit across Bengaluru. While some customers began opting for alternatives after cases were reported in Andhra Pradesh, the impact on prices —dropping by around Rs 25-30 per kg— and the decline in sales became more pronounced in Bengaluru following reports of cases in Karnataka districts.

Sellers told TNIE that with Ramzan just beginning, they fear continued losses as this is usually a peak sales period. Many sellers also pointed out that a common belief — eating chicken during summer can negatively impact health — has also contributed to the drop in demand across Bengaluru's meat markets. However, they noted that such price dips do not occur every summer. This year, chicken prices have fallen by up to Rs 30 per kg. Currently, chicken is being sold at Rs 140-150 per kg in some places, while in other areas like JC Nagar, Shivajinagar, Frazer Town, Cox Town, RT Nagar, where chicken shops are more in number, sales have dropped to as low as Rs 70-80 per kg.

Shershah M from KR Market's meat market said that both individual farmers and poultry companies have suffered significant losses following the flu outbreak. He noted that unnecessary fear has worsened their losses, especially during Ramzan, which they consider as peak business period. Representatives from the Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Broilers Association stated that the Poultry Breeders Coordination Association, along with the government, has taken measures to ensure consumer safety. While there is no official advisory so far, the state government has completely restricted inter-state poultry transportation. The Animal Husbandry Department has also clarified recently that there is no reason for panic.

Health department officials clarified that there is no harm in consuming chicken or eggs as long as they are cooked safely. They advised that boiling or frying at 70 degrees Celsius or above ensures the food is safe to eat.

Allocation went up for education, but issues remain unsolved

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

RUN-UP TO BUDGET

AS Karnataka heads into the 2025 budget, the key question is: Has last year's Rs 44,422 crore allocation for the education department brought any real improvement? In 2024, the state government earmarked 12% of its total expenditure for education, increasing funds by Rs 6,800 crore from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's interim budget in July 2023.

The focus was on teacher recruitments, upgrading rural and minority schools, and providing free electricity and water to government schools and PU colleges. 'Navu Manujaru,' a two-hour weekly session on social harmony and scientific temper, was also introduced. However, despite these allocations, many schools continue to struggle with the very same issues, raising concerns if the upcoming budget will address these gaps or just add to the list of unfulfilled promises.

One of the biggest demands ahead of the 2025 budget is the recruitment of teachers at primary and secondary levels — something experts, educationists and even officials within the department have been pushing for. More than 59,700 teaching posts were vacant earlier and still remain unfilled.

The last budget also promised Rs 50 crore to improve science and computer labs and provide internet in government high schools with higher enrollment. But a year later, the numbers have not moved. Only 5,308 schools — just 10.68% of the total — have internet access. The figures were exactly the same when the plan was announced, reveals data from the education department.

In the 2024 budget, the education department introduced Navu Manujaru, a two-hour weekly class designed to foster scientific temper and social harmony. However, the programme has received mixed reactions from teachers. While some say it has positively impacted students, others argue that it never truly took off.

EXPECTATIONS

When TNIE reached out to educationists and department officials, they said they are expecting funds to be directed towards teacher recruitments, teacher training, upgraded infrastructure, and internet facilities. They also expect the government to resume the free bicycle scheme.

Experts and child rights activists say that on several occasions, they have requested the government to restart the free bicycle scheme. The school education department had also proposed its reintroduction during the last budget discussions. But the scheme has remained discontinued since Covid. Officials told TNIE that they have requested for the scheme again and hope it is restarted.

The budget proposed Ganitha-Ganaka to help children improve mathematical skills. But the state has only 8,895 science and mathematics teachers for nearly 22 lakh students from Classes 1 to 5. The government also announced free electricity and water to all government schools and pre-university colleges, earmarking Rs 25 crore. But officials say the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board and other authorities are still demanding payment for these utilities.

Experts say that while many promises were made, they remained only in the budget outlay. Development educationist Professor Niranjanaradhya VP told TNIE that the government must at least fulfill two primary needs — teacher recruitment and a clear roadmap to ensure sufficient funds are directed towards development, as a large portion of the budget is currently spent on teacher salaries.

MLA pushes for completion of KG Layout by March 2026

Bengaluru: Yeshwanthpur MLA ST Somashekhar on Sunday asked the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to complete asphalting roads in six blocks of the layout by March 31, 2026. He paid a surprise visit to the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout to take stock of the progress of the layout that falls under his constituency. A senior official said that tenders have already been called for in connection with asphalting of roads for Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9. "The last date to submit bids is today (March 3). We had specified a period of 24 months for the firm which bags the contract to complete the asphalting of roads. The MLA has also asked us to complete it within six months or within a maximum period of one year. So, he is advancing the deadline," said an official. Almost 90% of road asphalting in 6th and 7th Block and nearly 60% in 5th Block have already been completed. Somashekhar also inspected the Sewage Treatment Plants and the Main Arterial Road (MAR) which connects Magadi Road and Mysuru Road.

EXPRESS READ

Samarthanam Trust celebrates 28th anniversary

Bengaluru: Samarthanam Trust for the disabled marked its 28th anniversary with Samarthanam Sambrama celebration, bringing together guests, supporters, and beneficiaries. The Samarthanam awards were presented to recognise outstanding contributions across multiple categories. Speaking at the event, Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar, Founder Trustee of Samarthanam Trust, emphasised the organisation's commitment to fostering an inclusive society.

KSRTC bags Governance Now 11th PSU Natnl Award

Bengaluru: KSRTC's initiative of refurbishing old buses into new under the leadership of KSRTC MD Anbukumar, which resulted in saving over Rs 250 crore for the bus corporation won the Governance Now 11th PSU National Award and Public Sector Undertakings Leadership Award–2025. KSRTC MD V Anbukumar was bestowed with the 'PSU Atmanirbhar Leadership Award as Best MD' award. At KSRTC, a total of 1,314 buses have been successfully refurbished in the corporation.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

03rd March: The current curious Mars-Neptune alignment brings the planet of action and energy into a difficult relationship with the planet of inspiration and good ideals. The result is actually a tendency towards serious muddle, but there is a solution, and that is to take very great care in all important, practical matters.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The Sun is now poised on the very edge of a new dynamic position, and is thus about to align itself with the region of the zodiac closely tied to your creative skills, romantic prospects and ability to enjoy yourself. First, though, you have to work out exactly what it is that you really want!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
One single planet is responsible for all personal and professional achievements at the moment - Mars, the ancient God of War. Without advising you to do anything reckless, this is an excellent time to take on the world and win. You've got to be subtle about it, though!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
If I were you, I'd think long and hard before issuing any ultimatums! You see, Mars is not the most trustworthy of planets, and it's encouraging you to do things you may regret! For one thing, you may be about to go behind somebody's back. Take care.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Social influences are decidedly lively as the week begins. You can expect some pretty dramatic encounters, especially if you mix with a new group of friends. Financial prospects look strong, although obvious signs of prosperity are two months away.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
When the Moon is so helpfully placed, it means that life is going your way. Yet, human nature being what it is, you may eventually find something to complain about. I doubt very much, though, whether you'll be able to put your finger on what ever it is that's bugging you.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Since Mercury, your ruling planet, is about to play a much greater role in your affairs, you can be sure that you are shortly to enter a nicely auspicious period. This should be enough to keep your spirits high throughout life's little ups and downs.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
I know that some of you are having a hard time at work but, in truth, the prospects have seldom ever been brighter. If all goes according to plan, you can expect considerable public acclaim or professional success over the coming weeks. You'll also be putting extra effort into keeping a relationship on the rails.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The Sun is now approaching a crucial region of your solar chart, a region associated with prestige and worldly success. Professional achievement and social status are therefore high on the agenda - but so, as it happens, is romantic happiness. It's all looking good!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Some of your closest emotional ties may be put to the test, but perhaps not until the end of the week. Right now, I should imagine that money is the biggest thing on your mind. Get your accounts in order before it's too late! Money, as you know by now, doesn't grow on trees!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
This should be a fairly smooth phase for most Capricorns, although those of you getting over relationship upsets will still be wound up in an emotional tangle. The key concept throughout is personal liberation, so you'll be resisting people who try to tie you down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You have often been underestimated - too often! Little do other people realise just how much you have up your sleeve and how many irons you have in the fire. From now, and over the next few months, you will have an increasing number of opportunities to display your skills.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Lunar alignments suggest a busy day but also reveal that your attitude to work will be shaped by your emotions. You may therefore respond over-enthusiastically at one stage, but be rather miffed at another. Still, you always seem to bounce back!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

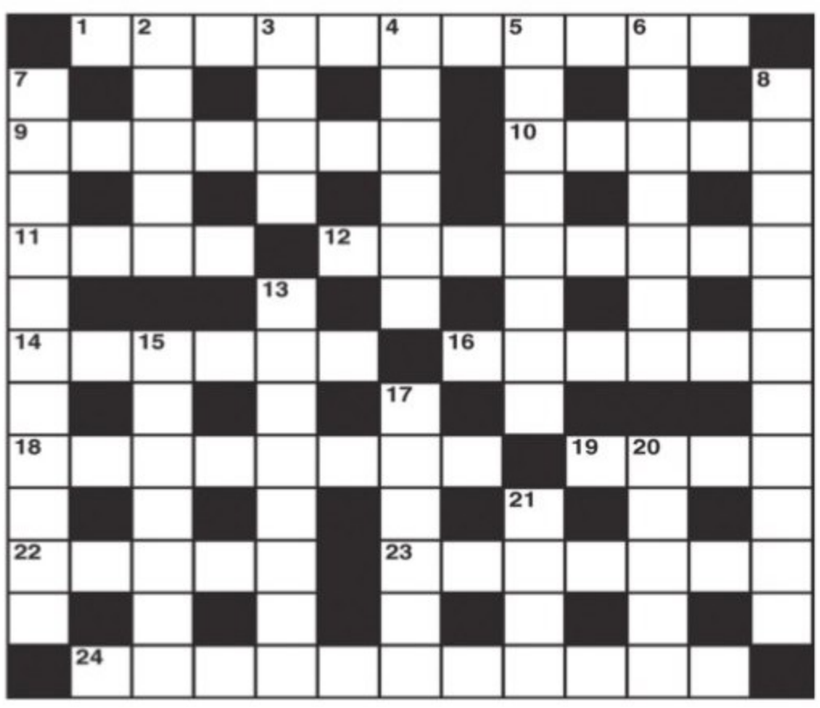
8					5	2	4	
5		4	3	2		1		
			1	9	4	8		
9		5			1	7	3	
	3	8	6			5		4
		1	5	3	7			
		3		1	2	9		7
	8	2	9					1

6	8	1	3	7	9	5	4	2
9	7	2	5	1	4	3	6	8
3	5	4	2	6	8	1	7	9
5	6	9	8	2	3	7	1	4
1	4	8	7	9	6	2	5	3
7	2	3	4	5	1	8	9	6
4	1	5	9	3	2	6	8	7
2	9	7	6	8	5	4	3	1
8	3	6	1	4	7	9	2	5

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 The lamb's tender (11)
9 Wept and ran from a Belgian port (7)
10 Account gets credit with a bit extra capital (5)
11 Pain in stomach excruciating (4)
12 Producing fruit makes small companies crazy (8)
14 Reply some Americans were hoping for (6)
16 Bail is brought round to the French subject (6)
18 Billets for four divisions (8)
19 Home from one's travels (4)
22 French lethargy (5)
23 Nothing to share but words (7)
24 Hardly dark thoughts (6,5)

DOWN
2 Rabbit cage, shed and church (5)
3 Birds can doit with their eyes shut (4)
4 Make use of unfinished polymer formation (6)
5 It's wicked enough to make acid boil (8)
6 Give way and die (7)
7 Stages in funerals (11)
8 Well-attended church service? (4,7)
13 Deciding to make no further moves? (8)
15 Tool for tightening up a bridge perhaps (7)
17 About the end of May tutor arranges test (3-3)
20 Girl from the States taking the morning off (5)
21 Musicians forbidden to speak (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Airway, 4 Appraise, 9 Lights, 10 Haunting, 12 Cast, 13 Known, 14 Stag, 17 Trendsetters, 20 Green fingers, 23 Leaf, 24 Stare, 25 Dodo, 28 Redstart, 29 Miners, 30 Scrapped, 31 Abated.

Down: 1 Allocate, 2 Register, 3 Arts, 5 Play with fire, 6 Rank, 7 Idiots, 8 Engage, 11 Interest-free, 15 Adore, 16 Grant, 18 Redolent, 19 Espoused, 21 Glares, 22 Gander, 26 Stop, 27 Limb.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TOTOH

CHUNL

GWILEG

DVIRRE

I swear I reserved this!
Man, I was totally ready to bowl.
Do you want to split?
THE BOWLERS DIDN'T LIKE HAVING TO WAIT FOR AN OPEN LANE AND WERE ANXIOUS TO ---
1/6
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BLURB DIGIT ABRUPT UNWELL
Answer: After the masseuse was named "Employee of the Month" again, she — RUBBED IT IN

Following an H5N1 (bird flu) outbreak in neighbouring Maharashtra, the Belagavi District Administration has set up border check-posts in Athani, Nippani, Hukkeri, Belagavi, Chikkodi, and Khanapur taluks. Officials will monitor poultry and eggs arriving from Maharashtra round-the-clock

POLICE TO ENFORCE HARNESS FOR KIDS

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) will soon start booking cases against parents who fail to ensure their children, aged nine months to four years, wear a safety harness belt and helmet while riding pillion on two-wheelers. Before taking up the drive, the police have launched an aggressive awareness campaign across the city on the importance of helmets and harnesses for children.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic (West Division), Anitha B Haddannavar told TNIE that following the high court's instructions, the traffic police have initiated awareness programmes to educate parents. Banners are being put up on roads and local traffic police teams are visiting schools within their jurisdiction to meet parents and students. When parents with children on two-wheelers stop at traffic signals, the police are explaining to them the importance of safety harness and helmets for children. Also with the help of sponsors, harnesses and certified helmets are being distributed to children. "Children standing or sitting on two-wheelers may lose control, and sometimes they may fall asleep. Wearing a harness can prevent falls and injuries," she said.

For now, the police are focusing on awareness rather than enforcement. After a period of educating parents and gauging public response, the police will begin booking cases, she said.

Another senior police officer said the rule is mandated under Section 138 (7) of the Central Motor Vehicle Act, 2022. Violating it will result in a Rs 1,000 fine and a three-month suspension of the rider's licence. The safety harness is a vest worn by the child and attached to the rider. According to the rule, the harness should be lightweight, adjustable, waterproof and capable of holding up to 30 kg. The helmet should be appropriately sized and meet the standards specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The rule also restricts the speed of two-wheelers carrying children to 40 kmph.

RARE TREAT

Hundreds of visitors to the 'Pustak Mela' at Vidhana Soudha got the privilege of walking through the Assembly Hall. The book fair, organised by the Legislative Assembly, concluded on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

Man found dead in car, kin suspect foul play

Bengaluru: A 42-year-old businessman was found dead under suspicious circumstances in a car near a private hospital close to Kodigehalli flyover in Kodigehalli on Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Ashwin Kumar, a resident of Muthyala Nagar. Sources said that on Saturday night, Kumar left his house in his car but did not return home until late at night. Worried, his family members tried calling on his mobile phone. When he didn't respond, they alerted the police, who tracked his location through his mobile. On arrival, officers broke the car's window and found him dead. His body was sent to the hospital, where doctors confirmed a heart attack as the cause of death. However, police said the family suspects foul play due to burn marks on Kumar's hand. A case has been registered and investigation are ongoing. ENS

Genes play a crucial role in finding drugs that body needs

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE Westerners come to India for sun therapy, there are many Indians who use high-level ultraviolet (UV) protection sunscreen in large quantities to protect themselves from the UV-A and B rays. There are also many instances where drugs developed based on European standards have not suited Indian body types, or have shown strong resistance. A particular community in Andhra Pradesh is resistant to anaesthesia, so doctors here inquire about people's background before undertaking operations and medical procedures.

All this is because of the diverse, yet unique, gene pool each individual has. Geneticists studying gene diversity said these are some of the many findings they have discovered. They point out that a person's genes and lifestyle play a crucial role in shaping an individual. It also plays a role in protecting one from diseases and builds immunity. Each individual is unique and his/her genetics shape the uniqueness. How and to what extent individuals are different, yet connected, is what scientists and experts from Centre for Brain Research Centre (CBR), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), are studying under the Genome India project.

"The project started in January 2020 and in January 2025, a report was submitted to the Department of Biotechnology, under the Ministry of Science and Technology. We sequenced over 10,000 samples from 83 population groups (people categorised based on their tribe, caste, region etc). So far, 130 million genetic variants have been found. Of this, 10% have been found to have unique variations. Further studies are on to understand the uniqueness for drug resistance and medical implications. Diversity mapping of heterogeneous diseases burden across India is also being studied," said CBR Associate Professor Bratati Kahali, heading the programme.

CBR is the coordinating centre for the study and along with 19 other centres, it forms the consortium. Team researchers said the study will help understand the migration pattern of humans over thousands of years. India has the second largest diverse gene pool after Africa and very little is known about it. The gene study will help understand the disease susceptibility, pharma co-genomic implications and reasons for various drug responses. The study will also help understand the reasons for immunological influences, resistance to drugs and other infections and diseases like Covid.

Bratati said the interest in this study increased post pandemic where many were found Covid resistant. The study will help understand the population-wise disease burden by studying their genetic variations. Brain is complex and its study and research is catching the attention of people. The study is helping understand how the human body reacts and responds to particular issues and see if there are similar linkages elsewhere and, if so, why with the help of gene analysis.

Builder, flat owners clash over construction in common area

Representatives of the builder removing flex banners at HM Tambourine Apartments on Saturday

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru:

THE simmering tussle between the builder and home owners of upscale HM Tambourine apartments on Kanakapura Road, came to a boil on Saturday. Representatives of the builder HM Infratech Pvt Ltd tore down flex banners erected by residents at the entry gates and damaged an internal fence erected by them. The home owners submitted a complaint against the builder at Puttenahalli police station.

Abdul Aleem, member of the Legal Committee, HM Tambourine Apartment Owners' Association, which has 2,000-plus residents, told TNIE, "We put up two flex banners at both the entries, stating that the property was under litigation. This angered the builder and a group of goondas removed our banners on March 1. They also removed the internal fencing done by us so we approached police."

Yogesh AN, member of the association's managing committee, said, "The issue between the two groups dates back to 2017. Houses in four blocks were handed over to owners in 2006 itself and an association formed to manage their affairs shortly after that. By 2017, when BBMP announced that the FAR (Floor Area Ratio) to construct houses had been increased from 2 to 3.25 in areas along the Metro network, HM Infratech approached BDA and got a modified sanction plan," he added.

The builder, who was still working on other blocks, tried to build more houses in the area, which the residents strongly opposed. "The builder owns 23% of the area and cannot build on our property now," he said.

Aleem added, "The confusion over ownership of the common area in apartments is causing this issue. We filed two cases in the High Court to prevent them from going ahead with any construction in four blocks but the builder keeps attempting to build more flats in the block."

Despite repeated attempts, the builder's representative could not be reached.

Roopa might take revenge against me, says DIG Vartika

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UNAUTHORISED access to her chamber after working hours, in the absence of concerned officers and without their permission, is a serious and inexcusable offence, DIG Vartika said.

She said this particular incident came to her notice, but many such instances might have occurred earlier without her knowledge, and similar incidents may happen in the future.

She stated that if any unpleasant incidents occur in her chamber, Roopa will be held responsible. She claimed that Roopa might misuse the situation and take revenge against her. She alleged that in the past, Roopa had allegedly threatened to ruin her annual report.

The IGP had also warned that she would take care of DIG when she is promoted to the position of DG&IGP, the letter stated.

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No.: FD 01 BMB 2024 Date: 28.02.2025

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount: Total Rs. 4000 Crore [Rs. 2000 Crore - 7 Years & 6 Months and Rs. 2000 Crore- 10 Years & 6 Months Tenure]
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : March 04, 2025

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

DIPR/DD-C.P/5345/KSMCA/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
(District Urben Development Cell, Chitradurg)
E-Mail: ka.chitradurga.dudc@gmail.com
No: DUDC(2)3rd Party/CR 39/2024-25 Date: 27.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender for Providing consultancy Services as 3rd Party (Third Party) Inspection and monitoring for all developmental & maintenance works, Procurement of Goods & Services under various Grants/funds in ULBs of Chitradurga District is invited through K.P.P. Portal in two tender document system from interested Consultants / Agencies, the details of which are given below.

E-Procurement Indent No. DMA/2024-25/SE3129/CALL-2
Name of the Work:- Providing consultancy Services as 3rd Party (Third Party) Inspection and monitoring for all developmental & maintenance works, Procurement of Goods & Services under various Grants/funds in ULBs of Chitradurga District.
Approximate Project cost in lakhs:- 102.00
Estimated Service Charge Amount (Rs.in lakhs):-51.00
EMD Amount (Rs in lakhs):- 1.02 Contract Period:- One Year
Interested agencies can get the tender information on the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for more details, information can be obtained from the District Urban Development Cell
Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
(1) Pre-Bid Meeting 07-03-2025 11.00 Hrs. **(2)** Last date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications 07-03-2025 16.30 Hrs. **(3)** Last date for Time and Receipt and Tenders 14-03-2025 17.00 Hrs. **(4)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) 15-03-2025 17.30 PM **(5)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) After Technical Approval Bid
Any changes in the tender conditions and Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/647/2024-25 **Sd/- Project Director, District Urban Development Cell, Chitradurga**

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CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
VELLORE, TN - 632 002 Email: registrar@cmcvellore.ac.in
ADMISSIONS NOTICE 2025
Group A : MBBS, BSc Nursing – Vellore campus, BSc Nursing – Chittoor campus and Allied Health Sciences (AHS) Degree courses.
Group B : Diploma in Nursing, AHS Diploma Courses, AHS PG Diploma, MSc Bioethics, Biostatistics, Medical Physics, Epidemiology, Clinical Nutrition & Nuclear Medicine Technology. MPH (Master of Public Health), MHA (Master of Hospital Administration), MPT (Master of Physiotherapy), MOT (Advanced OT in Neurology, Paediatrics, Mental Health), Fellowships in Antimicrobial Stewardship for Clinical Pharmacists, Hospital Quality Management (FHQM) & Hospital Chaplaincy courses.
CERTIFICATE COURSES (Medical / Dental)
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP COURSES (Medical / Dental)
M.S. BIOENGINEERING COURSE
The last date for online application submission for Group A & B courses with payment is 28th March 2025, for Certificate & PDF courses with payment is 7th May 2025 & for MS Bioengineering course with payment is 4th June 2025.
For more details refer Admission Bulletins available at CMC, Vellore website **http://admissions.cmcvellore.ac.in**
Important Information: The admission process contained in the Bulletins shall be subject to any order that maybe passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court / High Court / any other statutory enactments that maybe passed by the Central or State Government. *REGISTRAR*

COLLEGE OF NURSING
VELLORE, TN - 632 004 Email: registrarcon@cmcvellore.ac.in
M.Sc., Post Basic B.Sc., Post Basic Diploma and Fellowship in Nursing Programmes Admissions: 2025 - 2026
Application form can be accessed & submitted only online through the College website till 28th March 2025.
Please refer to Admission Bulletin (available at our website) for Course details, eligibility criteria etc. *REGISTRAR*

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The **General Public** are **CAUTIONED** not to be lured by any person offering admission to any of the courses conducted by CMC Vellore. The college will not be responsible for any candidates or parents dealing with such person / persons. Civil and a criminal court proceeding will be taken up against any person who holds out promises and also uses the institutions intellectual properties.
PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT ADMIT STUDENTS THROUGH AGENTS OR AGENCIES.
CMC VELLORE ADMINISTRATION

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SRI GURU RAGHAVENDRA SAHAKARA BANK NIYAMITHA
15, Subbarama Chetty Road, Nettakallappa Circle, Basavenagudi, Bangalore-560004.
Ph.No. 26620360, 26620379, Fax : 080-26506895, E-mail : sgrsbn.bank@gmail.com, Website : www.raghavendrabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas, the Bank has issued notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (4) of the Act, the Authorised Officer, **Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Basavangudi, Bangalore,** has taken Symbolic possession of the mortgaged properties including those more fully described hereunder, and the Bank has decided to sell the below mentioned property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act read with the relevant rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Description of the Properties Boundaries & Measurement	Reserve Price and EMD Amount	Balance Outstanding Amount to be paid to Bank	Date & Time of opening tender & place of auction
		Basavnagudi Branch, Bangalore			
1.	**Mr. Shivashankar M P and Mrs. Sharada B C, Both residing at** No.50, M V Papanna garden, Opp to SGR Dental College, Munnekolalu, Marathahalli post, Bengaluru-560 037.	All that piece and parcel of the property vacant site bearing No.5, out of property No.84/2, situated at SGR Dental College Road, Munnekollalu Village, Varthur Hobli, Benagluru East Taluk, after inclusion in to BBMP Bellandur Ward No.150 measuring East to West 22 feet, North to South 65 feet totally 1430 Sq.ft with construction standing thereon and bounded on: East by : Property of M P Manohar, West by : Property of M P Ashok Kumar, North by : Road, South by : Property in same No.84/2.	Rs.2.04 Crores (Rupees Two Crore and Four Lakhs Only) EMD: Rs.20.40 Lakhs 29-03-2025	Rs.2,55,10,023/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Ten Thousand Twenty Three Only) as on 31.07.2024 along with interest at the applicable rate and costs thereon.	04.04.2025 at 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha
2	**Mrs. Savitha B.M.** residing at No 2675, 11th Main Road D Block, 2nd Stage, Rajaji Nagar Bangalore 560 010 and **Guarantor Mr Satyanarayana N,** residing at No 7, V2- Vasudha Apartment, Flat No 203, 9th A Main Road, Srinivasa Nagar, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore 560 050.	All that piece and parcel of 1983.718 Sq Ft of undivided share, right , title and interest in the land with super built up area of 2144.56 Sq Ft with additional garden area of 797.28 Sq Ft known as "Courtyard" which is privately numbered as Villament No 42, with one covered car parking constructed on the converted lands bearing Sy Nos 163/2,163/3 (converted vide order Nos ALN (EVH) SR/587/2011-12 and ALN (EVH) SR/5/2012-13 both dated 18.06.2012) situated at Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru, now within the limits of BBMP Varthur Ward No 149, and bounded on East by : Road, West by: Garden , North By Garden, South By: Row House / Villament No 41.	Rs.1.80 Crores EMD: Rs.18.00 Lakhs 29.03.2025	Rs.2,73,11,598 (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Eleven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Eight Only) as on 31.07.2024 along with interest at the applicable rate and costs thereon.	04.04.2025 at 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha
3	**Mr. Nirmala R,** residing at No 43, 2nd Cross, Pantarapalya, Nayandanahalli, Bangalore 560 039 and **Mrs. Shivakumar K** , residing at No. 526/9, 9th Main Road, Hampi Nagar, RPC Layout, Bangalore	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 29, Katha No. 43/3, Nayandahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, after inclusion into BBMP old Chandra Layout Ward No. 39, New Nayandahalli Ward No. 131, property bearing No. 43, 2nd cross, Pantharapalya, Bengaluru PID No. 39-227-43 measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 25 feet and bounded on: East by : Road, West by : Property No. 14, North by : Road, South by: Property No.30.	Rs.1.55 Crores (Rupees One Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Only) EMD: Rs.16,00,000/- 29.03.2025	Rs.6,50,60,858/- (Rupees Six Crore Fifty Lakhs Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight Only) as on 31.07.24 along with interest at the applicable rate and costs thereon.	04.04.2025 at 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha
4	**Mr. Manjunath B M** No.39, 1st C Main, 12th A Cross Hampinagar, RPC Lay out, Vijaya Nagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560 040 and **Guarantor Mr. Shivakumar K** residing at No.526/09, 9th Main Road No.526/09, 9th Main Road Vijayanagar, Bangalore 560 104	All that piece and parcel of the Eastern portion of the property bearing No.39, situated at 12th A Cross, 1st C Main Road, D Krishnappa Layout, Hampinagar, RPC Layout, Vijayanagara 2nd Stage, BBMP Ward Old No.34, Present Hampinagar Ward No.133 Bengaluru PID No.34-63-39, measuring east to west 15feet north to south 45 feet with entire residential building standing thereon and bounded on: East by: Property No.38, West by: Western portion of the same property No.39, North by: Property No.26, South by: Road.	Rs.1.02 Crores (Rupees One Crore Two Lakhs Only) EMD: Rs.11,00,000/- 29.03.2025	Rs.1,58,22,793/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Eight Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Three Only) as on 31.07.2024 along with interest at the applicable rate and costs thereon.	04.04.2025 at 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha
5	**Mrs Mala** residing at No 27/246, 4th Main, Kempegowda nagar, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore 560 019. **Guarantor Mr.Gururaj C G** residing at No.5952,Ground Floor, 3rd Cross, 5th Main, Kumaraswamy Temple, Arch, Hanumanth Nagar, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore-560040	All that Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing 2 BHK Flat No 402, in 3rd Floor, Present BBMP katha no. 98/4300/68/2, 2/4260/TF-2, measuring 1203 sq.ft of Super built up area put up in property forming part of Residential Building known as "RAYARA NERALU", and one covered car parking with undivided share of 254.50 sq.ft. Constructed on site No 29 & 30, BBMP K. No 4339/4300/68/2/2/4260, formed in the converted Re-Survey No 68/1, Measuring 2 Acre 34 GuntaConversion order No B.DIS.ALN/SR/(S)71/1992-93 dated 06-07-1992, situated at halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore , presently within the limits of BBMP Ward No 160, Bangalore there on : East by: Road, West by: Site No.31, North by: Site nos. No.27 & 28, South by: Road.	Rs.58.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs oOly) EMD: Rs 5.80 lakhs 29.03.2025	Rs.92,45,382/- (Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty Two Only) as on 30.04.24 along with interest at the applicable rate and costs thereon.	04.04.2025 at 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha

Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale: - (1) The Tender form can be collected from **Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, #15, Subbarama Chetty Road, Nettakallappa Circle, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.**
For further details regarding property please contact, 1) Mr. Shrikant A Joshi, (91481 46516) mail Id support@raghavendrabank.com 2) You can also visit on our website www. raghavendrabank.com . Regarding particulars of E-Auction the service provider M/s Matex Net Private Limited, (73059 47966) , you can visit at https://assets.matexauctions.com : mail id : solutions@matexnet.com

Date: 03.03.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bangalore

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AS WATER CRISIS LOOMS, STATE GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER

Access to clean drinking water is a basic human right. Karnataka witnessed severe drought last year and faced acute shortage of drinking water. With a good monsoon, most of the reservoirs are not dry. Even before summer, many swathes including villages and a few urban pockets are feeling the heat of the drinking water crisis. The government has started taking measures, even warning against wastage of water. *The New Indian Express* brings the status of the drinking water crisis from across the state, and the arrangements made by local authorities.

TEAM TNIE

BENGALURU CITY

With summer temperatures already shooting up, Bengaluru city's core areas as well as outer regions are concerned over regular drinking water supply. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has assured the supply of drinking water to the city's 1.30 crore-plus population through the summer. BWSSB has prohibited using drinking water for car wash and other non-potable purposes, and imposed a fine of Rs 5000 for wastage. Recently, 112 cases were reported for violating this rule, and Rs 5.60 lakh was collected from the offenders, said BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasat Manohar.

While measures are being taken by the board to tackle the situation in April and May when summer will be at its peak, residents have expressed concern over the depletion of water in borewells, especially in the outer areas, and are living at the mercy of private water tankers.

"BWSSB has already commissioned Cauvery Stage-V with a capacity to supply 775 MLD drinking water to 21,000 connections spread across 110 villages that were merged into the Palike in 2008," said Manohar, adding that BWSSB will also press tankers for the benefit of the public from its side.

If this is the situation in Bengaluru Urban, there is serious concern in Ramanagara district, especially in Magadi taluk, with its 2.75 lakh population facing water issues. As per MLA HC Balakrishna, building the Express Canal, a project to lift water from the Hemavathi river, can solve the water issue in the taluk.

The situation in Bengaluru Rural is not encouraging as the government is not able to provide 3.5tmcft of drinking water for the entire district.

KITTUR KARNATAKA

With adequate water available in Almatti and Narayanapura reservoirs, Vijayapura may not face drinking water issues this time. According to officials, unlike previous years, the district administration need not have to use tankers to supply water in several parts of the district. Basavaraj Kumbar, Executive Engineer of Rural Water Supply, said over 640 villages of the district are connected with various water supply schemes such as Multi Village Scheme (MVS) where water is supplied either through a canal and or by filling up tanks. "We have sufficient water to last till July this year, so even in mid-summer, we will not be needing any tankers," he said.

"In Bagalkot, the Zilla Panchayat has identified around 35 villages based on the latest records and availability of water sources. In order to address the possible crises, we have already prepared plans that include identifying private borewells besides depending on government borewells," ZP CEO Shashidhar Kurer said.

Belagavi's primary water sources are Rakaskop Reservoir and Hidkal Dam, with additional water being drawn from the Markandeya river. Hardik Desai, General Manager, L&T, Belagavi, said the water situation has been thoroughly assessed, allowing the company to adopt a more cautious and effective water management strategy this year. He highlighted that Rakaskop Reservoir remains the city's main water source, while Hidkal Dam supplements supply.

CENTRAL KARNATAKA

Although there is no foreseeable crisis, contingency plans are being put in place in Davanagere and Chitradurga for stable drinking water supply. Despite timely rain improving groundwater levels, officials are cautious and have prepared contingency plans for potential shortages in April and May.

In Davanagere, of 726 villages, 500 receive water through a multi-village supply scheme. Zilla Panchayat CEO Suresh B Ittnal says, "We don't have any water problems in villages now, but issues may arise in April and May." Mayakonda, Channagiri and Jagaluru constituencies are identified as potential hotspots and panchayat development officers have been instructed to harness private borewells as a backup. Contingency plans are already in place for Molakalmuru, Challakere and Hiriyur taluks, which are more prone to shortages.

MALNAD KARNATAKA

In Shivamogga, over 90 per cent of gram panchayats have adequate water due to good rainfall, says ZP CEO Hemanth. The Disaster Management Cell has issued guidelines, including deploying tankers, repairing borewells and maintaining the supply network. In Chikkamagaluru, erratic rainfall has impacted groundwater, and activist Naagesh Angeerasha attributes it to deforestation. ZP CEO Keertha HS noted that NR Pura and Koppa taluks face shortages, but the RDPR department is taking steps to mitigate the situation. Meanwhile, Kadur and Ajjampura remain stable due to good late monsoon rain. Farmer leader Maheshwarappa urged judicious water use, despite IMD's prediction of good rainfall.

COASTAL KARNATAKA

The coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi are unlikely to face any drinking water crisis during peak summer this year as the authorities have made alternative arrangements to tide over any possible shortage. Adyar-Harekala vented dam will come to the rescue of Mangaluru city, Ullal and surrounding areas if water level hits rock bottom in Thumbe dam, which presently supplies water to Mangaluru city.

Mangaluru mayor Manoj Kumar ruled out the possibility of any water crisis during peak summer, saying there is sufficient water in Thumbe vented dam. The construction of vented dams at Jakribettu and Biliyuru has raised hopes of them replenishing borewells in the region to help tide over a possible crisis in summer.

The Udupi district administration has issued instructions to various departments like Minor Irrigation, Major Irrigation, RDPR, Revenue, Urban Development, Rural Water Supply and Forest to come up with conservation measures, said ZP CEO Prateek Bayal. The Zilla Panchayat is requisitioning information from the village water and sanitation committee of each Gram Panchayat to assess the situation and prepare a mitigation plan.

"As of now there is no water scarcity in any of the villages. Uttara Kannada district has had a very good monsoon in 2024, so there has been no drinking water crisis yet this year. Following a poor monsoon in 2023, summer had been harsh for Karwar Rural, Gokarna, Kumta, Joida town and Murudeshwara in Bhatkal taluk and other places.

KALYANA KARNATAKA

As Kalaburagi and Raichur districts are generally arid during summer, the district administrations have started taking steps to tackle possible drinking water crisis in Kalyana Karnataka region.

Kalaburagi district incharge minister Priyank Kharge has strictly instructed officials to prepare an action plan within 10 days to tackle a possible drinking water crisis in summer.

Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike has said it would station one water tanker in each ward to provide water. All 253 villages of Kalaburagi district might face a drinking water crisis in summer, and 66 villages may get affected from March itself. Aland, Afzalpur, Kamalapur, Chittapur and Kalaburagi are likely to run dry.

Raichur Deputy Commissioner Nitish K has given a 10-day deadline to officials to fill all the lakes in the district before water flows in the canals. Nodal officers will be appointed in all taluks to ensure there are no complaints from villagers regarding supply of drinking water. In Raichur district, 297 villages are being supplied drinking water through ponds or lakes. These ponds are filled with water from the Tungabhadra and NRBC canals. At least 265 more borewells need to be drilled soon, while 336 have already been dug.

Bidar district officials say 46 villages might face a drinking water crisis in summer, and preparations are under way to tackle any shortage. Yadgir administration too has started preparations to avert any crisis.

OLD MYSURU

In Mysuru region, the mercury is up, water holes are drying and the underground water table is depleting, and many villages atop Male Mahadeshwara Hills are depending on tankers to quench their thirst. The drought-like situation and dry open wells has forced families living in Tulsikere, Padasulanatha, Dodmane and nearby villages to wait for tankers to meet their daily requirements. Though MM Hills is situated in the backwaters of the Cauvery, it is gripped by a water crisis as there are neither borewells nor piped water.

Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Nag plans to convene a meeting exclusively to discuss drinking water needs. She has directed officers to list vulnerable villages that would face a water crisis, and draw up plans to see that they are effectively managed for the next 2-3 months. Though KRS Dam has 113.65 ft of water as against its maximum level of 124.8 ft, and Kabini is brimming at 2275ft as against 2284ft, and many tanks are filled up to meet the drinking water needs of Mysuru district, there are complaints of water scarcity in parts of Jayapura, Maragowdanahalli and Keelanapura panchayats in Mysuru taluk and Kavalande hobli in Nanjangud taluk. The Zilla panchayats had invited tenders during the previous year to supply water in tankers.

In Mandya, there are no reports of water scarcity as the irrigation department has released water into canals to reach tail-end villages in Maddur and Malavalli. Precautionary measures are in place to see that no village is affected during the summer.

BIG PICTURE

Despite Kodagu being the land where the river Cauvery originates, the district has been facing acute drinking water shortage from March to May. However, authorities have failed to draw water from alternative sources to enable the residents' water needs are met. Meanwhile there is work going on in urban areas in the district, including Madikeri, Kushalnagar and Virajpet, under AMRUT 2.0 scheme from Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board that aims to end water woes.

KOLAR/CHIKKABALLAPURA

There is no perennial river in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts. People depend totally on borewell water for regular use, and purchase tanker water for drinking purposes since several years. Jayaraman, a senior pharmacist, says people who can instal water purifiers use purified water in their houses, but a majority purchase tanker water at Rs 3 per pot, while others purchase purified water for Rs 12 per pot. The Yettinahole project is a dream for people in Kolar and Chikkaballapur, but the government's assurances of completing the project remain unrealized, says Communist Party of India (Marxist) taluk secretary Thangaraj. For 20 years, Bethamangala lake water is being purified and supplied to houses. There's a need for the state government to supply water to people of KGF, Bethamangala and BEML Nagar.

According to an official, water from Yerogol is being supplied to Bangarpet, Malur and Kolar, but pipeline work is still not completed in some parts.

NORTH WEST KARNATAKA

The approaching summer is likely to be hot and horrible for Gadag, Ballari and Vijayanagar districts, besides parts of Dharwad district. Although Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities may not face a problem, there could be a stretched supply cycle as the demand increases with the increase in the mercury levels in the region. The drinking water problem is not new for Gadag district despite having double sources -- the Tungabhadra and Malaprabha rivers. Irrespective of season, people bear the brunt of this problem. Repeated ruptures in pipelines from the Hammagi Reservoir over Tungabhadra create a lot of concern for the people of Gadag town and surrounding villages of the taluk, and they have to depend on tankers for drinking water.

On the other hand, despite having enough storage water in the Tungabhadra dam, Ballari and Vijayanagar districts have been experiencing drinking water crises as water is being supplied once a week and often gets stretched to once in eight-10 days. Although summer has just begun, the administration of both districts has not yet geared up to tackle eventualities in the coming days.

Since the water sources of Dharwad - Malaprabha and Neerasagar reservoirs - have adequate storage, there could be no problem for the twin-cities, but the same cannot be expected in rural parts of the district. So the ZP is to classify red, orange and yellow zones depending on severity of the problem. Kundgol, Alnavar, Navalgund and a few areas in the urban pockets may face some problems as the summer further heats up and does not receive any unusual rain, says Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu.

Firoz Rozindar (Vijayapura/Bagalkote), Tushar A Majukar (Belgavi), Subhash Chandra NS (Uttara Kannada), G Subhash Chandra (Davanagere/ Chitradurga), Arpitha I (Shivamogga) Thipperudrappa B (Chikkamagaluru), Mallikarjun Hiremath (Dharwad), Kiran Balannanavar (Ballari/ Vijayanagar), Raghottam Koppar (Gadag), Ramkrishna Badseshi (Kalburgi) / Vincent D'Souza (Mangaluru), Prajna GR (Kodagu)/ Prakash Samaga (Udupi)/K Shivakumar (Mysuru /Mandya/ Chamarajanagar), Mohammed Yacoob (Bengaluru/ Ramanagara), Velayudham (Kolar/Chikkaballapura)

Many boiling issues to come to fore, as 15-day budget session starts today

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

THE 15-day budget session of the Karnataka legislature will commence from Monday with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the finance portfolio, presenting his 16th budget, a record, on March 7. The session will kick off with an address by Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot.

The session is taking place amid several flashpoints. Tension escalated between the government and Raj Bhavan over an attempt to replace the governor as chancellor of RDPR University by appointing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah instead. The governor, however, returned the Bill.

The session is likely to be turbulent with the opposition BJP and JDS trying to attack the government over the state's finances. They will point out lapses in implementing the guarantees, especially the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, power disruption and diversion of SCP/TSP funds for the guarantees and others. The government's decision to wind up nine of the 10 new state universities, set up by the previous BJP government, is also likely to be a major issue.

Treasury empty, does budget have any point, asks HDK

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday wondered at the relevance of the budget session, which starts on Monday, stating that the government treasury is empty and a lot of money has leaked out. "The people of the state have cooperated in filling the government coffers as huge taxes were imposed on them to fund the guarantees," he told reporters in Koppal.

The government will table the important Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill and Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025.

It is to be seen whether opposition parties will raise the issue of clean chit given to Siddaramaaiah by the Lokayukta in the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam as the matter is still in the court.

For BJP, the focus would be rising prices of essentials in the state, especially the fare hike of Bengaluru Metro, state-run road transport corporation buses and milk price among others.

It will take up the law and order situation, focusing on the attack on Udayagiri police station in Mysuru and the alleged mishandling of the case by the police. Their target will be Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, accusing him of inefficiency, sources said.

The ruling Congress will target BJP over alleged injustice meted out to Karnataka by the Centre in devolution of taxes, proposed delimitation exercise, delay in clearances to Mekedatu balancing reservoir and Kalasa Banduri irrigation projects.

WHAT'S WRONG IF I ATTEND RELIGIOUS EVENTS: DKS

Udupi: In the backdrop of his participation in recent religious events creating a buzz in political circles, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said there's no need to read anything into his visits to the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj and a Mahashivratri event in Coimbatore. He told reporters in Kaup, where he arrived for the 'prathishta' ceremony of Sri Hosa Marigudi temple on Sunday, that the religious visits are not a harbinger of a drastic political move and such speculations are unwarranted. "I am also a devotee. I took a holy dip in the Sangam during the Maha Kumbh Mela. Does the water there have any religion? Does it belong to any political party? I also took a holy dip in the Kapila River near T Narasipura during the Kumbh Mela. What is wrong with it? Let people engage in any type of calculations," he said. **ENS**

DCM DK Shivakumar offers prayers at the Sri Hosa Marigudi temple in Kaup on Sunday

Film fraternity, Oppn slam DKS over BIFFes outburst

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A day after his stern remarks at the inauguration of the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Sunday came under fire from film fraternity members and opposition parties.

The DCM had expressed displeasure at the film fraternity's absence at the event and also not extending support to the Mekedatu Padayatra. He also warned that if the government does not grant permission for shooting, they cannot make films. In his speech, Shivakumar had said he knows exactly where to tighten their (film fraternity members) "nuts and bolts".

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said Shivakumar earlier insisted that MLAs bow before him if they want grants and now, he has threatened film artistes and other members openly. Ashoka said the Mekedaatu Padayatra was a Congress event. It is up to the film fraternity to support it or not. Shivakumar should not treat everyone as his subordinates, he said.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy said people gave 135 seats to the Congress not to repair nuts and bolts. "Looks like Shivakumar's feet are not on the ground. The power is making him speak arrogantly."

Actor-turned-politician and BJP MP Jaggesh said Rajkumar had initiated an artistes' association to bring artists together. Unfortunately, it has now become inactive. He urged Shivakumar to direct officials concerned to hold elections for the association so that artistes can be brought together.

M Narasimhulu, president of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, told reporters that artistes and other film fraternity members should have come to the event. But they did not receive any invitation. It is not correct of him to give such statements, he added.

A 45-year-old man from Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu was arrested under the Pocso Act on Saturday for allegedly sexually assaulting his 11-year-old stepdaughter. The incident occurred on Friday night when the girl was ill

Tharoor does U-turn on Kerala startups

Kerala Congress President Sudhakaran welcomes Tharoor's willingness to correct

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

DAYS after his praise of the growth of Kerala's startup ecosystem under the LDF government kicked up a political storm, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has taken a U-turn. In a post on X, Tharoor said the growth of startups should not remain "confined to paper" alone.

"Dismayed to see that the Kerala start-up entrepreneurship story is not what's been reported. The only silver lining is that at least the Government of Kerala's claims point to the right intentions. We need more MSME start-ups -- and not just on paper. Kerala must head this way!," he posted on X.

Tharoor stated his new position while referring to a report published by a newspaper that highlighted the closure of several small and medium enterprises in the state. "There's more about what the official numbers conceal," Tharoor added.

Meanwhile, state Congress president K Sudhakaran welcomed Tharoor's willingness to change and correct, emphasising that the MP had not made any serious mistakes. "Tharoor has clarified everything he said. I thank him for his big heart," he Sudhakaran added. Reaffirming his support for Tharoor, Sudhakaran said he would protect him like the apple of his eye.

Interestingly, even while expressing doubts over the start-up claims, Tharoor was careful to highlight the "right intentions" of the LDF government. It was in a column in *TNIE* on February 13 that Tharoor praised Kerala's start-up ecosystem, quoting the 2024 Global Startup Ecosystem Report. The column had also acknowledged that the "transformation" in the start-up sector has occurred under a "communist-led LDF government". The remarks stirred a hornet's nest with a section of the Congress' state and central leaders decrying Tharoor's "praise" of the LDF.

A few days later, Tharoor came up with a Facebook post clarifying his stance. Tharoor said his remarks were on the basis of the findings of the 2024 Global Startup Ecosystem Report and added that he was ready to correct his stance if there are other credible reports to the contrary.

5 minor boys held for sexual assault of 2 sisters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Krishnagiri

FIVE minor boys aged between 13 and 15 were apprehended for allegedly sexually assaulting two sisters aged nine and 13 on the terrace of their home near Hosur on Saturday afternoon.

According to police, among the five boys three are studying in Class 8 and 9 in a government school, while the other two are dropouts. They often roam around the neighbourhood, collect leftover construction material and sell it to buy snacks.

On Saturday afternoon, the group of boys had gone to the terrace of a house in the neighbourhood. Hearing their racket, the two survivors — studying in Class 4 and 7, went up to investigate. Police said one of the boys grabbed the younger girl and covered her mouth with his hand to silence her. Later, the boys allegedly stuffed cloth in her mouth. Her 13-year-old sister attempted to fend off the boys, but they allegedly tied her hands and gagged her mouth. Both girls fainted and the boys sexually assaulted them.

MONTH-LONG RITUAL

Muslims break their fast on the first day of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

HEAT FACTOR

THE KARNATAKA HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A HEATWAVE ADVISORY URGING PEOPLE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

RECOGNISING HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

Heat exposure can lead to various illnesses, ranging from heat rash and muscle cramps to heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Watch out for symptoms such as:

- Dizziness, fainting, nausea, vomiting
- Headache, extreme thirst, rapid breathing, and heartbeat
- Dark yellow urine, indicating dehydration

Heatstroke is a medical emergency. Warning signs include:

- High body temperature (≥40°C or 104°F)
- Confusion, seizures, unconsciousness
- Hot, dry, red skin, rapid heartbeat, muscle weakness

WHO IS AT HIGHER RISK?

- Infants and young children
- Pregnant women
- Outdoor workers
- People with heart disease or high blood pressure
- Individuals with mental illnesses
- People visiting from cooler climates, who should allow at least a week to acclimatise and stay well-hydrated.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

If someone shows signs of heatstroke:

- Call 108/102 for medical assistance
- Move the person to a cool place
- Apply cold water to their skin and fan them
- Do not wait for symptoms to worsen — act immediately.

The Health Department stressed that heat-related illnesses are preventable with timely precautions. The public is urged to follow these guidelines to stay safe during the ongoing heatwave.

Bengaluru City 32.1°C
Mangaluru 36.3°C
Kalaburagi 37.4°C
Karwar 38.2°C
Chitradurga 34.1°C
Haveri, Gadag 35°C
Chamarajanagar 36.3°C

'Fate of eight trapped workers not known yet'

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY
@ Hyderabad

CHIEF Minister **A Revanth Reddy** on Sunday said that the fate of the eight workers trapped in the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel remained unknown. He visited the SLBC project site and inspected the rescue operations being carried out by various agencies. Later, he along with Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao reviewed the situation with the rescue teams.

"Experts have not come to any conclusion regarding the trapped persons. We do not know whether they are still alive or dead. It will take two to three days to get a clear picture and the rescue operations are continuing," the chief minister explained and said that the government was ready to extend every possible support to the families of the trapped workers.

He said that mechanical parts were found during the digging in the tunnel by the rat miners at the place which was mapped by the NGRI as the possible location of the trapped persons. The rescuers tentatively identified the whereabouts of the workers, but not reached a firm conclusion, the CM added.

EXPRESS READ

Rape accused shot dead with arrows by victim, husband

Rourkela: A 28-year-old rape accused out on bail was allegedly shot dead with arrows by the victim and her husband at Teliposh village in Kuanrmunda block of Sundargarh district on Saturday evening. The deceased was identified as Raj Kumar Yadav, a native of Aurangabad in Bihar. He was allegedly harassing the victim to settle the case after his release from jail six months back. Yadav used to work at a local fabrication unit and lived near the house of the couple. The woman was raped by Yadav around 18 months back. After being released on bail six months back, he was frequently harassing the victim to withdraw the case. On Saturday during a fierce quarrel between them, the couple killed Yadav with bow and arrows.

Houses of accused students raided; families' role under scanner

Kozhikode: The police investigation in connection with the death of 15-year-old Muhammad Shahabaz in Thamarassery is being extended to the families of the accused students. The police conducted raids at the houses of five accused, who are Class 10 students of GVHSS Thamarassery in Korangad and seized the nunchaku used for beating up Shahabaz on Thursday. Shahabaz, who suffered severe head injuries, later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at Kozhikode Medical College Hospital on Saturday. Police took five Class 10 students into custody and shifted to the Observation Home, Vellimadukunnu. Police are also recording statements of the accused's parents, siblings and friends.

Headmaster absconding after sexually abusing girls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

OVER 100 villagers and relatives of girl students held a protest, demanding action against a school headmaster for allegedly sexually abusing their children in HD Kote taluk. The protesters, who have locked up the school, demanded that the police arrest the accused who is absconding immediately.

The villagers alleged that headmaster Girish sexually abused several girls by giving them sleeping pills, stating that they are albendazole tablet for de-worming.

The victim's father said that on January 30, his daughter had gone to the headmaster's chamber to get chalk pieces for the classroom. He had given sleeping tablet stating that her aunt who had come to the school had given albendazole tablet. "After forcefully making the girl to consume the tablet, he allegedly raped the girl behind the almirahs in his chamber. Her classmate who had come to the headmaster's chamber had found my daughter lying on the floor nude in a semiconscious state. The headmaster told the classmate to give her water and take her home. He had also warned her not to disclose the incident to anybody. However, my daughter's classmate informed us about the incident," he said.

The victim's parents and villagers alleged that when they went to the police station, the police refused to lodge a complaint against the headmaster. After the incident was brought to the notice of the higher authorities in the Education department, CRP officer Deepa had visited the school and assured parents of initiating action against the headmaster. The villagers alleged that Education authorities failed to respond properly even to the gram panchayat president.

When *TNIE* contacted DDPI S T Javaregowda, he said an FIR has been lodged under the POCSO Act and police are searching for him as he is absconding.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients are namely **Mr. T. Venkatesh** S/o Mr. Thimme Gowda and Mrs. Sunitha W/o Mr. Umesh both are proposed to purchase the scheduled property from Mr. K Irshad Ahmed S/o Mr. Khadar Mohyuddin, that if any person/s, bank/s and any other authorities has/have any objection for the proposed sale transaction or claims any kind of whatsoever on the schedule property. May lodge their claims or objections with documentary proof **within 07 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction and any claims or objections received thereafter will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Residential property bearing BDA Site No.1390, BDA *PID No.4312011546*, in the Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Situated at Sir.M.Visveshwaraya Layout, 1st Block, Bangalore, measuring:
East to West : 18.00 meters,
North to South : 12.00 meters,
in all measuring 216.00 square meters, and bounded on :
East by : Site No.1401,
West by : Road,
North by : Site No.1389,
South by : Site No.1391.

Date: 02/03/2025 Place: Bangalore
Ravikumar K R Advocate.
Ph: +91 98446 72852
Office at: No. 1679, 1st floor, Kommaghatta Main Road, Kengeri Upanagar, Bangalore - 560060

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients are intends to purchase the Property described in the schedule hereunder from THE BANGALORE ENAMELS, PAINTS & CHEMICALS (P) LTD, Plot No.3-E in Doddanekundi Industrial Area, Phase-1, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru - 560048 Bangalore, who represents that they are the absolute owner in possession of the said schedule property.Any persons, financial institutions having any sort of claim / rights / interest/ charge on the below said property or any objections for the said sale of the property may file their objections in writing along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned within **07 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the below said property and our client shall be advised to proceed with the proposed transaction. Any claims thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the Industrial Property bearing **Plot No.3E,** having BBMP EPID No., Old BBMP Katha SI No.637/3E, of Doddanakundi I Phase Industrial Area, situated in **Sy No.73 of Doddanakundi Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru District,** measuring East by 78.30 metres, West by 77.70 metres, North by 25 metres and South by 27 metres, totally measuring 2011 square metres, now coming under jurisdictional authority of BBMP, Bengaluru, and bounded on the;
East by : Plot No.3-F; **West by :** Plot No.3-D;
North by: Plot No.3-B; **South by :** Road.

SNR ASSOCIATES, Advocates,
Flat No.402, Fourth Floor,
"Samaikyaa's K.K.Veni Plaza"
B.Narayanapura, White Field Main Road,
Bangalore – 560 016, Mob No. 9844080567

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client **Mrs.Malathi,** aged about 49 years, W/o Sri.Narayana, Aadhar No.8610 9318 3457, residing at Muthurayanapura, Ganakallu, Ramanagara Taluk, & District-562109, represents that the Original Sale deed dated 21.02.1987, Registered as Document No.1623/1986-87, in the office of the Sub Registrar Ramanagara, executed by **V.Pattabhiramaiah** to in favour of Smt.Puttamma, in respect to the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** mentioned hereunder is lost/misplace and not traceable.

If anybody other than the said Mrs.Malathi has any claim, right, title and interest on the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** by virtue of being in possession or otherwise of the above said Original Documents, or any Rights they should file their claim with documentary proof within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice in our office, at the address mentioned below, failing which, it will be taken for granted that nobody has any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** other than the said Mrs.Malathi

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing, Municipal Assessment No.227/176/1792/1748B, Old No.1748/B, New PID No.4-1-502-103C, Situated at **1st Main, Block 1:1, Ramanagar Town, Ramanagar District,** Now comes under the limits of C.M.C Ramanagar, ward No.4 Gandi badavane, measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **15 feet** in all measuring **600 Sq.feets,** and bounded on the:
East By : Road; West By : Property of Raman and Shivarudrappa; North By : Property of Raman and Shivarudrappa; South By : House belongs to Chikkathayamma;

Shruthi.S, Advocate
Unit No.101, 1st Floor, No.663, at 3rd Cross, Opp: to Karnataka Bank, K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004, TG.

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

'e'-Tender No. & Date	Name of Work	Ranging (approx.)	Bid document download start date
'e'-Tender Notice No: EP. No. 97/CGM(E)/TC/T1/TD-II/MoM-Ph-IV/2024-25, dated: 01-03-2025.	MoM of Ph-IV 150 MLD WTP and Jackwells, for the Period of (1) ONE Year under Singoor Section, SD-II, Peddapur, TD-II, Patancheru.	Rs.199.68 lakhs	03-03-2025 @ 11.30 AM

The Tenderers are requested to upload the information on the Zip format preferably. Further details can be seen on **www.eprocurement.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04, TG.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: 506/BGM/SE(E)/C/Project/AEE(C)/24-25/8935-42 Date: 28.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for R&M and Capital (Manual) Civil works and R&M Works (E-Procurement) coming under the Jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer (Elecl.), Projects Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi. The detailed notifications regarding the above Civil Engineering works enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL's website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 5.30 Hrs on 03.03.2025.** The detailed notifiction regarding the works called through brief tender notification will be displayed on the office Notice Board at the office of the undersigned **on or after 5.30 p.m. on 03.03.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during Office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)
Projects Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590010. Phone: 0831-2950835/2950836

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 AT BANGALORE

O.A. No. 1619/2018

BETWEEN :
Union Bank of India Uttarahalli Branch, No. 629/443/2A, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore - 560001.
Rep. by it's Manager ...APPLICANT
AND : 1. Chandra Vidya Singh W/o Pratap
2. R. Pratap Singh S/o B.K. Singh, Both R/at. 203, 1st Floor, 7th Cross, Ideal Homes 1st Phase, Rajarajeswarinagar, Bangalore.
3. K. N. Sudhir Kumar S/o Nagrajappa R/at D.No. 2480, 1st Floor, 17th Cross 4th Main, Banasankari, Bangalore-70.
4. CANFIN Homes Ltd., Rep. by its BM Kanakapura Road Branch, Bangalore.
... DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT 1 to 3 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE RULES) 1993

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debt due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993, against you for the recovery of sum of **Rs. 56,71,072/- (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Seventy One Thousand and Seventy Two only)** along with current chargeable interest at 10.25% p.a Compounded and other relieves. You are required to show cause within 30 days from the date of this publication or **on 15.04.2025 at 10.30 a.m** in person or by Advocate duly instructed as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the above mentioned day, the proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 21st day of November 2024.

Registrar, Debt Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Indira Nagar, Bangalore 560038
PH 080-25250113, 9672222919 | Mail Id: bo1268@pnb.co.in

NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

We hereby notify the Bank's intention to break open the following lockers for recovery of locker rent arrears for more than 3 (three) years as well as locker remains inoperative (irrespective of whether rent is paid or not) a period of 7 (seven) years or more and the customer cannot be located by the Bank. The lessee to visit the branch on or before 02.06.2025(date to be specified by giving 3 months) to avoid further proceeding.

Sl No	Locker No	Name	Address	Rent Arrears In Rs.
1	AA00019	Subhendu Kumar Mitra & Sushma B Mitra	Bangalore 560089	12125
2	AC00049	Radheshyam Rai	686 2 16th D Main Hal 2nd Stage Indira Nagar Bangalore 560038	13275

Place: Bangalore
Date: 01.03.2025
Sd/- Branch Head
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

Deputy Director Office, Social Welfare Department Hassan District, Hassan
No/ddswd/d3/est/cr36/2024-25 Date:28.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

TENDER INVITED FOR THE SUPPLY OF MANPOWER TO SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT INSTITUTIONS (HOSTELS AND KRIES RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS) OF HASSAN District IN THE YEAR 2025-26. THE DATES ARE AS BELOW. 1.TENDER AMOUNT: 1089.66 Lakhs 2.TENDER NOTIFICATION DATE 28.02.2025 2)Pre Bid Meeting Date, Place and Time Date: 5-3-2025 11.00 AM Deputy Director Office, Social Welfare Department, Dr.B.R Ambedkar Bhavana, Hassan 3)Last date & Time for submission of Tender: D:15-3-2025 4.00 PM

Sd/- (DOODHPEER.P.) Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Hassan District.

ಬಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1004/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2024–25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2024-25/9627 Dated : 24.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry No. **KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2024-25/616/UGCable/2024-25 dated:24.02.2025** for Combined package of Design, Manufacture, Supplying and Erection of 11kV U.G. of sizes 1X1000Sqmm, 3CX240Sqmm for various sub-stations coming under TL&SS Division KPTCL Hootagalli, Hebbani, N.R.Mohalla & Chamarajanagara under Transmission Zone KPTCL Mysuru.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03.03.2025**. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Elect., (Operations), Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WSS/Yedrami/2024-25/1437 Date : 28-02-2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER:-

1) Detail of Work : Providing Water Supply Scheme to Yedrami Town with Kadakol Barrage as source including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode - No variation (Work Indent No : **KUWSDB/2024-25 /WS /WORK_INDENT317),** 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 3306.00 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: **Rs. 33,06,000/-,** 5) Period of Completion: 24 Months (Including Monsoon), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **04-03-2025 after 17:00 Hours,** 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **18-03-2025 at 11:30 Hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders : **03-04-2025 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **05-04-2025 After 11:00 Hours**, 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : **kwbceklb14@gmail.com**, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1024/KSMC&A/2024-25 **KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi**

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix – IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98,Udyog Vihar, Phase–IV,Gurgaon-122015.(Haryana) and Branch Office at:- **"At Soma Merit, No.9, Ground Floor, Venkataswamy Naidu Street, Taskar Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560001"** under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** for reali-zation of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iiflonehome.com

Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Symbolic Possession	Reserve Price	Date of Inspection of property
1. Mr. Narendra Kumar 2. Mrs. Chaitra **(Prospect No IL10158207)**	**10-Sep-2024** **Rs.2606817.00/-** (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen Only) **Bid Increase Amount Rs.40,000/-** (Rupees Forty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 39, in Survey No. 72, Shettyhalli Village, Yashwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North, Karnataka, 560015 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_area, Built_up_area, Carpet_area Property Area: 585.00, 876.00, 886.00 (area Admeasuring 1024 Sq. Ft)	**21-Nov-2024** **Total Outstanding As On Date 05-Feb-2025 Rs. 27,54,420/-** (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Four Hundred & Twenty Only)	**Rs. 37,21,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Twenty One Thousand Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** Rs.3,72,100/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred Only)	**19-Mar-2025 11:00 hrs -14:00 hrs** **EMD Last Date 21-Mar-2025 till 5 pm.** **Date / Time of E Auction** **24-Mar-2025 11:00 hrs.-13:00 hrs.**

Mode Of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have tovisit https://www.iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only. Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction.
For Balance Payment - Login https://www.iiflonehome.com >My Bid >Pay Balance Amount.
Important Information : This auction is published basis possession vide Sec 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act. Physical possession will be offered post receiving of Section -14 order as per process laid down under SARFAESI Act and as and when physical possession will be taken. Bidder shall do necessary due-diligence in respect of documents and legality before participating in auction proceedings.

Terms and Conditions:-

1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider https://www. iiflonehome.com, well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IIFL HFL.
6. Bidders are advised to go through the website https: // www.iiflonehome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
7. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- care@iiflonehome.com, Support Helpline no.1800 2672 499.
8. For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no.1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- care@iiflonehome.com.
9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
10. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
11. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
12. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE RULE 9 SUB RULE (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost

Place : HOBLI | Date : 03.03.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

EDITORIAL

A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd

Max Lucado

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

DELIMITATION REFERENCE TERMS MUST BE SOUND TO DO JUSTICE TO THE SOUTH

A political hot potato is in the making much before the Centre takes a final call on the long-pending delimitation process. The scheduled redrawing of parliament constituency boundaries based on population is now at the heart of a raging political controversy in Tamil Nadu and the rest of South India after the state's CM called for an all-party meeting on March 5, claiming the exercise hangs over the southern states like the sword of Damocles. MK Stalin believes these are the BJP's machinations to run the country with the support of the increased number of MPs coming from the Hindi heartland and royally ignore states governed by opposition parties. The political storm Stalin kicked up ahead of next year's state elections fits perfectly with his anti-Hindi and anti-BJP tirade.

Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that southern states would not see reduced parliamentary representation has not cut any ice with them. There is no clarity yet on the term of reference. Will it be based on population or a pro-rata basis on existing Lok Sabha seats? There are no quick answers. Karnataka and Telangana have responded quickly to the call to unite against the Delhi move. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah called Shah's claim "not trustworthy". His Telangana counterpart, A Revanth Reddy, accused the BJP of using delimitation as a pretext to secure 'permanent' power by increasing seats in 'BIMARU' states while diminishing South's political significance.

In general, delimitation is directly proportional to size. It means states with larger populations get more representatives in parliament. Currently grappling with a population explosion, northern states may end up in that category, while southern states with effective population control may see reduced representation. India's population may reach 142 crore by 2026, and the delimitation process based on the new census may increase the Lok Sabha seat count of Tamil Nadu by a few. The back-of-the-envelope calculation shows Karnataka may see a minor increase while Kerala, with the slowest population growth, may lose a seat. Fears are that states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar could see a substantial 50 percent jump in their Lok Sabha seats, making South India increasingly insignificant in parliament. That would mean a slap in the face of the states that effectively implemented population control in the nation's interest.

STOCK MARKET DIP CLEANS EXCESSES OF LAST 2 YEARS

THE Indian equity markets have been 'imploding', falling 15 percent from their September 2024 peaks, eroding nearly ₹1 lakh crore of investors' wealth. Over the past five months, the unprecedented and persistent fall has clouded investor sentiments with fear and gloom. In the recent past—February-April 2020—we have seen the indices taking bigger hits of over 30%, but this time, the negative sentiments are more broad-based and hence more structural. FIIs have been dumping Indian stocks for more lucrative destinations—the US, China, etc—due to stretched valuations of Indian equities and lower profitability of Indian corporates, a sombre economic prospect in the medium term and given the uncertainties around Trump's economic policies. India's fiscal policies have not helped the markets either. The decision to increase the short-term and long-term capital gains tax rates last year has also made the Indian equities market less lucrative for foreign portfolio investors. The reasons are many and fundamental in nature, so the bear grip is tighter this time.

While one cannot sit quietly seeing the value of their portfolio falling persistently, knee-jerk reactions by the investors or the government would be unwarranted. The government must resolve basic issues—making policies which boost the economy—instead of trying to tinker with the natural course of equity markets. If it can reverse its capital gains tax decisions of last year, it might inject some positivity into the market in the short term. Investors, on their part, can follow the basic lessons of investing and invest in quality stocks, now available at cheaper valuation, diversify portfolios across assets and geographies, stay away from small-cap stocks for now, and invest regularly instead of making large commitments at one go. The current bear run is not the end of the world for investors. Treat the current phase in the market as a clean-up of excesses built over the past two years during the market's one-way movement upwards. The theory of mean reversion—asset prices reverting to historical means or averages—is playing out in Indian equities markets, not for the first time. As and when clouds of global uncertainties disperse, and the conditions become more amenable for business and economic activities, equity investors will see the light at the end of the tunnel.

QUICK TAKE

REFORM DISCOURAGING ATTITUDES

THE Supreme Court recently ordered reinstating two women civil judges sacked for underperformance in Madhya Pradesh. Terming their dismissal grounds as punitive, the court noted many complaints weren't even related to judicial competence. Underlining the absence of women-centred perspectives, it observed: "…growing number of female judicial officers (isn't enough) if we (can't) secure for them a sensitive work environment and guidance." The lack of gender diversity in the judiciary is well-accepted. That's no reason for leniency, but creating amenable circumstances, including oft-missing gender-sensitive infrastructure facilities, is paramount. Without a discerning mindset, it isn't easy to encourage women's entry into and retention in the judiciary.

The people reeling under tremendous economic pressures crave urgent measures to reduce their woes, which may not be possible in the medium term

HURTING ECONOMY, RISING ASPIRATIONS, LOOK FOR ANSWERS

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer; founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

MANDAR PARDIKAR

COLOMBO'S new administration will soon complete six months in office. Predictably, it has not been a bed of roses. The government has tried to introduce changes, particularly to the entrenched political culture, streamline systems and reduce excessive spending. Nevertheless, the challenges remain daunting.

The left-leaning government presented its first budget on February 17, striking a tricky balance that meets the International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements while seeking to push a home-spun approach to solving the island's long-standing economic woes. On February 19, Fitch Ratings recognised the island's budget reflected the authorities' commitment to raising fiscal revenues as a share of its GDP—an approach that, if proven successful, may alleviate a long-standing weakness in the credit profile. While acknowledging risks to the fiscal outlook with the slow pace of fiscal consolidation weighing on prospects for debt reduction over the medium term, Fitch also noted the budget offered greater clarity over the administration's medium-term fiscal and economic reform agenda and consistency.

The government aims to increase revenue to 15.1 percent in 2025, from 11.4 percent in 2023, exceeding Fitch's assumption that the 15 percent threshold would be achievable only by 2026. The budget incorporates a 36.5 percent increase in revenue from taxes on external trade and a 13.1 percent from income taxes. While these revenue-based targets demonstrate its commitment to the IMF programme and gradual economic recovery, challenges remain before the fragile economy.

In the lead-up to the budget presentation, the general mood was both sceptical and sombre rather than hopeful, a silent acknowledgement of the absence of space to wriggle within the controlled fiscal climate with the IMF conditions posing an additional stranglehold. The administration lacked the space to develop its economic formula or to deliver on one of its key pre-election pledges: to renegotiate the IMF-backed debt restructuring programme achieved during President Ranil Wickremesinghe's presidency to offer a level of relief to the poor and middle classes. The administration is unable to withdraw from the deal without causing significant economic consequences that could be more severe than those experienced in 2022.

In its wake, following the third review on February 28, the IMF approved $2.9 billion as part of the bailout to help the island's economic rebound. Nevertheless, the IMF-brokered deal remains anathema for most people, and a sense of disappointment prevails despite accepting the economic constraints as the collective reality.

As the euphoria of electing a new administration and a trusted presidency begins to wane with time, the government is entering a period of renewed scrutiny—which will intensify and find people's expression during the local authorities' elections in the coming months. Insiders claim the new dispensation is working with intent towards course correction, but the people reeling under tremendous economic pressures crave urgent measures to reduce their woes, which may not be possible in the medium term.

The people, meanwhile, are getting impatient as they struggle to make ends meet amid spiralling costs of living. Government insiders, however, call for patience, claiming the administration is formulating policies to strengthen programmes while trying to introduce a new political culture to increase public institutions' efficiency.

The government is cognisant of the political reality that catapulted them into office: economic and political bankruptcy. In the run-up to the crucial presidential and parliamentary elections, the National Peoples' Power (NPP) drummed up public support by effectively driving the point that the island's economic collapse was more about corruption and nepotism than systems. This also means the administration must now cater to public expectations around accountability, including acting against corrupt elements in previous administrations and going beyond a couple of indictments of Rajapaksa family members. Difficult as it may be, it is time for tangible changes to political structures.

However, the introduction of such changes may not be easy. For example, the promulgation of a new Constitution will require time. The public has continued to harbour hopes of having the executive presidency dismantled, but since 1996, despite vocal pledges to abolish it, each president has embraced the powerful executive presidency and has not desired to prune the excessive powers, let alone abolish it. It would also require dealing with the island's powerful Buddhist clergy and the military, wielding immense power over the Sri Lankan community.

To bring a political equation among ethnicities, the government will have to address war excesses, which may necessitate action against security personnel hailed in the South as war heroes. Another perspective would be to consider the political issues of the ethnic Tamils, who largely supported Dissanayake's NPP with the expectation of a new beginning, free from the influence of long-standing power politics that overlooked Tamil political goals. The severely constrained government may have continued with the IMF programme to ensure stability, but political reforms of inclusion and justice cannot be postponed if the administration Is serious about structural reforms.

This also brings up the NPP's equation with neighbouring India, a critical player in geopolitics. Dissanayake's party has historically remained critical of what was termed "Indian expansionism". The incumbency has resisted calls to investigate military exercises during the protracted war in the North of Sri Lanka. Dissanayake grabbed headlines last month by pushing the cancellation of a 450 MW wind power project by the powerful Adani Group due to tariff and environmental concerns.

Many Sri Lankans are apprehensive about Indian investments, seeing them often as extensions of India's geostrategic interests while undermining Sri Lanka's sovereignty. India and Sri Lanka cannot afford an estranged relationship while following their growth trajectories and strategic interests. This calls for both Delhi and Colombo to address the underlying trust deficit.

(Views are personal)
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THE MANY MYSTERIES OF THE NAGA SADHUS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

I missed seeing the famous Naga Sadhus at the Mahakumbh, which was disappointing as I had so many questions I would have liked to ask. But I caught up with them indirectly and unexpectedly late last week and would like to share what I learnt since there's so much more to them than the seemingly bizarre aspects portrayed on social media.

It happened at a stunning photo exhibition on Naga Sadhus at the Travancore Palace in Delhi. The photographer is well-known photojournalist Bandeep Singh, whose deep interest in this enigmatic aspect of Indian culture led him to the Kumbh. He kept going to the Kumbh for over 20 years and spent 25 days closely with the Naga Sadhus of the Juna Akhada (*juna* means 'ancient'). This happened through a chance introduction by a Delhi spiritual activist who had grown close to them. "A window opened, and I was suddenly in," said Bandeep, of this rare opportunity.

Naga Sadhus are followers of one of the 10 akhadas or monastic orders founded by no less than Adi Shankara himself in the 8th century. They are celibate by choice, sleep on the ground and are proficient in yoga and martial exercises. They either shave their heads completely or grow long matted locks called 'jata', which are supposed to enhance their energies. Many of them wear only a loincloth or, after reaching a particular stage of spiritual detachment, discard even that as the last relic of earthly rules.

They smear themselves with ash as it keeps the body warm in cold weather and is a proven antiseptic for scratches, wounds and insect bites. Deeper, vibhuti, as Lord Shiva's attribute, is believed to promote both physical and mental purity. The sanyasis say, "Chade khaak, mann hove paak, alakh niranjan aape aap", meaning that when vibhuti is applied, your mind is purified, and you transcend the limits of human measurement. Niranjan, meaning spotless and blemish-free, is one of Shiva's many epithets. They carry trishuls and wear rudraksha malas to proclaim their adherence to Shiva. Bandeep's show is called Bhasmang, meaning 'ash-smeared', which holds these layers of meaning.

They eat sparingly, and there are even those who have subsisted for years on drinking nothing but tea and smoking chillums (opium pipes). But why do they smoke weed? They told Bandeep it's because it helps them concentrate and cuts off worldly distractions. They take good care to appear in public only at the Kumbhs, where they have a historical right of way, to show society that they are there for them. After that, they mysteriously disappear to isolated ashrams and forest hide-outs, travelling by night to avoid townsfolk.

BHASMANG BY BANDEEP SINGH

> The Naga Sadhus take good care to appear in public only at the Kumbhs, where they have a historical right of way, to show society they are there for them. After that, they mysteriously disappear to isolated ashrams and forest hide-outs, travelling by night to avoid townsfolk

The purpose of the Naga Sadhus is twofold. One is their spiritual growth. The other is to be in a state of constant readiness to defend temples and holy places of India from attackers. Historical incidents are chronicled about their battles in the mould of the Bhrigus, ancient warrior-priests. The orders have various surnames, such as Sarasvati, Bharati, and Giri. Bandeep tracked sanyasis of the Giri order.

The sanyasis he met were mostly men and boys from poor, rural families. Apparently, they renounce the world for one of three reasons. One, of course, is a sense of personal calling, not limited to the rural poor. It can strike urbanites too, except that city people seem more tightly bound in the coils of the 'maya jaal' or net of illusion. This personal calling could be a growing feeling or a sudden epiphany. So, they follow the strong pull of their hearts into sanyas.

The second and sad reason is a traumatic personal life. Tragedy, cruelty, the forlorn feeling of being abandoned, and the human heartbreak of 'Na main kisi ka, na koi mera', meaning 'I belong to nobody, and nobody belongs to me', leads some to take sanyas. In contrast to being orphaned and ill-treated, there is order, method, a regulated life and, above all, a strong sense of community and emotional security in the akhadas, once you are accepted. That sets your feet on the path of inner growth.

There is no looking back after that, for you leave your past behind and get trained to become a new person, anchored in God-awareness. It is especially healing when anchored in a compassionate and powerful concept like Shiva, whose allure has kept believers spellbound for millennia.

The third reason is something that Bandeep discovered and shared with me. In the rural North, men join the army or the police as respectable and secure professions. But there is a third category that gets even more respect—the genuine sanyasi. And so, some are drawn to sanyas, though the initial attraction transforms rapidly into an arduous personal journey of hardship, renunciation and soul growth.

Candidates are first put through hard labour and given the most tiring and unpleasant community tasks to test their commitment. If they pass and are accepted as initiates, they undergo 12 years of rigorous training and practice. Each initiate is given five gurus to oversee different aspects of his training. The fifth guru is the powerful 'mantra guru'. If one guru leaves the akhada or dies, the leader instantly appoints another. So, the initiate is never left unattended and may safely progress in his new life. Quite a system, is it not? Centuries-old, and still ticking.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Ukraine's Catch-22

Ref: *Peace falls to pieces as Trump and Zelenskyy spar* (Mar 2). Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy exposed his impulsive impetuosity in the high-level meeting between the US and Ukraine, putting himself in a Catch-22 situation. He has to either agree to American terms for the exploration of rare minerals and work on developing the rundown economy of Ukraine, or get prepared to lose many more territories of his nation in the war against Russia.
Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Global concern

The recent standoff between Trump and Zelenskyy is a cause for concern. While Kyiv battles Russian aggression, a withdrawal of American support would be catastrophic. Will Europe step in to fill the gap, or will Ukraine's opposition collapse without strong US support?
Anshu Bharti, Begusarai

Successful Mahakumbh

Ref: *Surge of bharatiyata unity at Prayagraj* (Mar 2). The article highlights the success of the Mahakumbh, which witnessed a congregation of over 66 crore people across the world in 45 days without too many major disruptions, incidents, or accidents. It has reinforced faith, redemption and cultural unity.
R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Cleaning Prayagraj

After the unprecedented global gathering of more than 66 crore pilgrims near Sangam ghats for the Maha Kumbh mela after 144 years, the next vital part is cleaning the tonnes of garbage generated and dismantling Mahakumbh Nagar. It's a major task to clean 10,000 acres to maintain the sanctity of the ghats and Sangam.
Jayaprakash Reddy, Nalgonda

Congress politics

Ref: *Brand Tharoor: Pride & prejudice* (Mar 2). It is strange that a senior Congress leader like Shashi Tharoor has to wait for three years to meet Rahul Gandhi. Shashi came into politics later in life and is an erudite scholar who is not afraid to speak his mind. Tharoor has a closer view of happenings in Kerala and rightly praised the government for its policies.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Children's safety

The surge in Pocso cases in Tamil Nadu reflects improved reporting, a positive shift towards confronting abuse. However, the government must address criticisms such as delayed trials and inadequate support for survivors. Enhanced preventive measures are also crucial to ensure a safer environment for children.
Deepa Pandey, Bhubaneswar

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
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POSTS OF THE DAY

Himanta Biswa Sarma @himantabiswa
The biggest enemies of the Hindu society are not the people of any other religion but the Left and Liberals thriving within the Hindu society itself.

Abhishek Banerjee @abhishekaitc
What began as a vision has now become an unstoppable force – one that is reshaping Diamond Harbour's healthcare landscape, one patient at a time.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
According to our Sanatan tradition, the marriage rituals of our son Kartikeya are going on. Today the ritual of Haldi was completed with happiness.

Centre, BJP states plan to unveil new women schemes on March 8

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE Centre and BJP governments in states are planning to announce several women-centric initiatives on March 8 in line with its policy aimed at women's empowerment.

BJP sources said that on the occasion of International Women's Day the party is planning to introduce initiatives that will financially empower women from poorer categories, both in Delhi and other party-ruled states.

"Since our party is taking initiatives centred on the economic, educational, and social empowerment of women, we are poised to introduce more women-centric schemes. A large section of women voters have supported us, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is genuinely committed to their empowerment through a slew of schemes," a senior party functionary said.

It is expected that some of these initiatives will include financial support for girls' education and assistance for women from marginalised sections for the promotion of vocational and skills-based empowerment, the functionary said.

"Additionally, the BJP Mahila Morcha has planned a series of outreach programmes and activities for Women's Day on March 8, focusing on the Prime Minister's eight flagship schemes designed to empower women economically, educationally, and socially," he said.

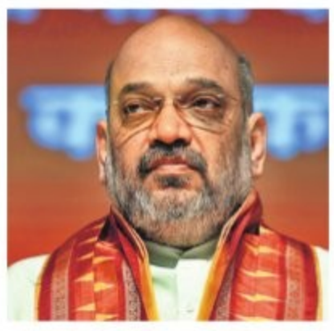
In Delhi, the registration process for the Mahila Samriddhi Yojna, which promises ₹2,500 per month to women from economically weaker sections, is expected to begin on March 8.

This scheme was included in the BJP's Delhi Assembly election manifesto, which pledged to provide financial assistance to women once the party came to power in the city.

Shah: Govt unsparing in punishing drug traffickers

Says 29 narcotics smugglers convicted by courts in 12 cases so far

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi



NOTING that the government has been "unsparing in punishing drug traffickers," Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that 29 drug traffickers had been convicted by courts in 12 different cases across India as a result of the "bottom to top" and "top to bottom" approach adopted in investigation by the agencies.

Taking to his X handle, Shah said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the government pledges to continue combating the drug menace with "ruthless and meticulous investigations" to build a "drug-free Bharat".

The Home further asserted that the successes are the testament to the "bottom to top" and "top to bottom" approach adopted by the agencies under the direction of the government.

Later, in a statement the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said, in pursuit of the government's zero-tolerance policy against drugs, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has achieved this significant success. Some of the instances cited by the ministry include: the seizure of 23.859 kg charas at the Sabarmati Railway Station in Gujarat's Ahmedabad in 2019, where three people were arrested and sentenced to 14 years in jail.

Ruthless investigations

Shah said that under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, the government pledges to continue combating the drug menace with "ruthless and meticulous investigations" to build a "drug-free Bharat". He further asserted that the successes are the testament to the "bottom to top" and "top to bottom" approach adopted by the agencies.

In July 2022, the NCB in MP's Mandsaur intercepted two vehicles in Shahdol and seized 123.080 kg of ganja. Four people were arrested and sentenced to 12 years RI with a fine of ₹ 2 lakh each.

In July 2022, the NCB in MP's Mandsaur intercepted two vehicles in Shahdol and seized 123.080 kg of ganja. Four people were arrested and sentenced to 12 years RI with Rs 2 lakh each as fine. In the Chandigarh Zone last year, a parcel containing two hockey sticks packed with 438 grams of opium was intercepted at DHL Express, Ludhiana, which led to arrest of two accused. They were sentenced to three years of imprisonment by a Punjab court.

A man was held at Chandigarh Railway Station in 2021 for possession of 390 grams of charas. He was sentenced to six months in jail.

In June, 2021, a Zimbabwean woman was arrested at Cochin International Airport with 2.910 kg of heroin and was sentenced to 11 years in jail.

In January 2018, the NCB seized 450 grams of charas, arrested one person in Dehradun, who was later sentenced to one year in jail. In 2021, the NCB seized 1.950 kg of charas from the possession of two accused. A court in January 2025 sentenced the accused to 10 years in jail. In February 2021, the NCB seized 681.8 kg of ganja in the Ranga Reddy district of Telangana and arrested eight accused. They are undergoing 10 years in prison.

INSIDER TRACK

Cabinet reshuffle whispers louder

Whispers are growing louder in political circles about a possible reshuffle to the Union Cabinet around June or July, when the NDA government will complete first year in its third term. "Since no one from the party organisation has been inducted yet, we're hopeful for a reshuffle in June or July, bringing in some fresh faces while letting the veterans either rest or take on new organisational roles," said a BJP functionary. Ministries like Petroleum, Law and Justice, Tribal Affairs, and Minority Affairs, along with a few MoS roles, are expected to see a shuffle in favour of new blood. "Some ministers are now so senior that they might be shifted to gubernatorial posts or organisational duties," added another functionary. Meanwhile, one minister eyeing the national president's post might be shown the door by mid-year. The cherry on top? A cabinet spot could be reserved for a minority face, making the reshuffle even more intriguing!

Leadership blues & survey doom!

For the Congress in Kerala, it's not just the leadership struggle at the Centre that has the party leadership concerned. The party's hopes of returning to power in Kerala seems to be in jeopardy even before the race has officially begun. According to sources, internal surveys conducted by the party's war room general, Sunil Kanugolu, paints a bleak picture for the Congress. The surveys suggest that the party may be staring at a third consecutive defeat in the Assembly elections due for 2026. This would be another blow to the party, which has been striving to regain its lost ground after its losses in the 2016 and 2021 assembly polls. Despite recent efforts by its top brass to curb anti-party remarks and internal strife in Kerala, Kanugolu's surveys indicate that the damage has already been done. The discord within the party has seemingly taken a toll on its prospects, making the path to victory in 2026 more challenging. Sources said that Kanugolu has now set his sights on the 2031 elections.

Youtuber Bhardwaj? AAP ruffled

The latest venture of former Delhi minister Saurabh Bhardwaj into the world of YouTube has struck a discordant note within his party. Bhardwaj's channel called 'Berozgar Netaji', which hasn't exactly won approval from AAP leadership, especially party chief Arvind Kejriwal. In the elections, the BJP made a comeback after 27 years of political exile in Delhi, winning 48 seats. After Bhardwaj's defeat in Greater Kailash, he decided to announce his new digital career. In his first post after the election results, he said, "For leaders like us, life took a 180-degree turn...As an MLA, we get a salary. But how long can we sustain from savings? So this will also be a source of livelihood." Good intention, perhaps. But Kejriwal is displeased with Bhardwaj's new gig, feeling that while it's normal for political leaders to lose elections, Bhardwaj's online antics have made the party a subject of ridicule more than anything else.

Exercises carried out to raise Special Forces for operations

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THE month of February was hectic for the Indian Special Forces (SF) as troops carried out training exercises in multiple theatres, desert and mountains, at the joint tri-services and bilateral levels.

Also, the SF troops are conducting airborne operations at the international levels. These add to the government's plan to raise the Armed Forces Special Operations Division.

"An integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise named Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 was conducted by the Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 24 to 28 February 2025," the IAF said. The exercise involved elite Para (Special Forces) from the Indian Army, the Marine Commandos from the Indian Navy, along with the Garud (Special Forces) from the Indian Air Force, participating together in a simulated combat environment.

This high-intensity drill was aimed at enhancing interoperability, coordination and synergy among the three Special Forces units to ensure swift and effective response towards emerging security challenges. The exercise included airborne insertion, precision strikes, hostage rescue, counter-terrorism operations, combat free falls and urban warfare scenarios wherein the combat readiness of the forces was tested under realistic conditions.

In February, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force also conducted a significant joint exercise, involving their elite special forces, to enhance operational readiness and inter-service coordination.

As TNIE reported, "Elite troops of the Indian Army recently participated in a comprehensive training exercise christened Exercise Winged Raider." The exercise focused on special airborne operations, demonstrating a high level of preparedness and synergy between the two forces. According to the Army, the exercise "involved rehearsing various airborne insertion techniques from both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, enhancing the skills of participating personnel. The exercise also witnessed a first in the Eastern Theatre in terms of training on airborne operations from the Chinook Helicopter." The training provided a valuable opportunity for troops to refine their expertise in airborne operations, which are essential for rapid deployment and mission success.

The Army emphasized that "the exercise underscored the critical role of airborne forces in modern military strategy, enabling swift and decisive action in diverse operational environments."

Why should there be a confrontational stand over language: Dhankhar

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

AMID the ongoing language row, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday emphasised the need to nurture every language. "Should there be a confrontational stance on language in Bharat? We have to nurture every language."

During a virtual interaction with students of IIT Hyderabad, Dhankhar stated that India is a land of rich languages—Sanskrit, Bangla, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and many others. Even in Parliament, simultaneous translation occurs in 22 languages.

He also referred to the recent conferral of classical language status on some languages as a proud moment. As languages have a global reach, every language should be nurtured. They are a gold mine of literature, and these literary works are filled with knowledge and wisdom—Vedas, Puranas, the epics Ramayana, Mahabharata, and the Gita, he added.

The Vice-President also ideated for the formation of a confederation of alumni associations from institutes of excellence. Underlining the importance of alumni associations, he said, "Look at global universities and their endowment funds, billions of US dollars. I had the opportunity to see the figures. The top list is approaching 50 billion dollars. Why don't we have this? We have alumni. Let our alumni contribute to the corpus. The amount doesn't matter; it's the spirit of contribution that will foster a connection with the institute."

He shared an idea with IIT Hyderabad's students: "I have proposed an idea. We have institutes of excellence—such as IITs, and others. Their alumni associations should form a confederation, which will become a top global benchmark think tank for policymakers."

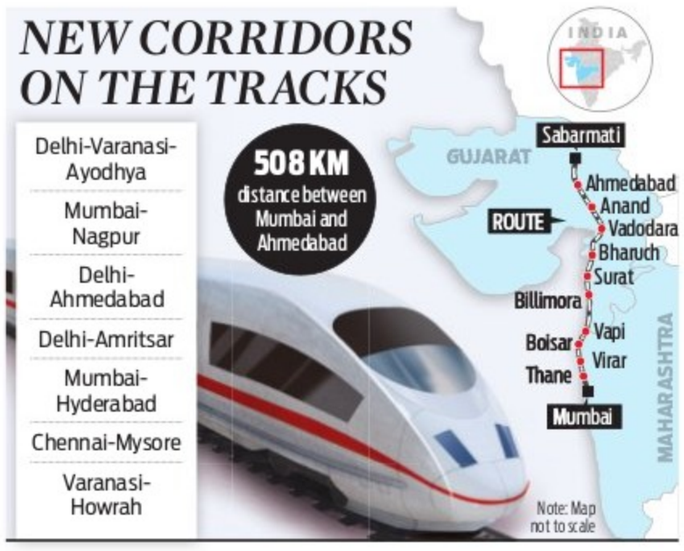
Urging the corporate sector to invest in research and innovation, the Vice-President said, "Firstly, our corporates. I am not critical, just a critique. They must invest in research—invest in research for development and innovation."

PMO and language advantage

Shaktikanta Das, former RBI Governor and retired IAS officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre, has recently joined the PMO as Principal Secretary-II, leaving many in bureaucratic circles surprised. This is especially true since PK Mishra, a Gujarat cadre officer, continues as PS-I. Some believe Das's appointment might be part of a succession plan, reminiscent of when Nripendra Mishra served as PS to the PM and PK Mishra was added as Additional PS. Back then, Mishra played a vital role as the go-to person for appointments and personnel affairs, smoothly transitioning into his role as PS to the PM. However, others feel that this is not a passing-of-the-baton situation. Rather, Das's role as PS-2 seems to be part of an upgrade, with him taking on a similar macro-level role as Nripendra Mishra once did in the PMO. But here's where it gets interesting—Das brings a valuable language advantage to the table. While Mishra's fluency in Odia and Gujarati works well for communication with the PM and HM, Das, fluent in both Odia and Tamil, is expected to have a smoother rapport with Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan, also an expert in these languages.

Economic zone to come up on bullet train route

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi



LIKE in Japan, the route for India's first bullet train, currently under construction, has been designed to create a large and unified economic zone across the states it passes through.

The economic zones, which will be established once the bullet train services between Mumbai and Ahmedabad begin, are expected to yield economic benefits through industrialisation. "The biggest advantage of the bullet train is that it brings together 5-6 cities to form a single economic zone," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently said. "The bullet train project is not only a means of transportation, but it is a project for the growth of the entire region," he added.

India's first high-speed rail corridor, designed to accommodate bullet trains, is anticipated to give an economic boost to more than 12 cities along its route, and their smaller neighbouring towns through enhanced business and industrial activities.

Drawing a comparison to Japan's first bullet train project, which created a significant hub between Osaka and Tokyo, Vaishnaw said, "As a result of Japan's first bullet train, introduced between Osaka and Tokyo, all the six cities located along the route between these stations emerged as major hubs. Similarly, areas like Surat, Nadia, Bilimora, Vapi, Thane, Ahmedabad, and others along the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train route will witness rapid growth."

Providing an update on the progress of the project, the minister said 360 km of work is now at the viaduct level. "The work at the Anand bullet train station is progressing well, and it is being modernised to accommodate trains running at speeds of up to 350 km/h," he added.

A senior railway official explained that the bullet train project is conservatively expected to multiply business activities across the regions between these two states by more than five times, with reduced travel times prioritising business movements.

It is also expected that the first bullet train project will lead to the creation of economic estates around major stations along the route, attracting substantial private sector investment in infrastructure.

"The high-speed rail development will stimulate construction, engineering, and manufacturing sectors, resulting in job creation and improved transportation networks. With travel time reduced from 7-8 hours to just 2-3- hours, day trips or business travel will become more viable," said the senior railway official.

"The most significant economic impact will be felt through job creation, with an estimated 1 to 2 lakh jobs generated in construction for both skilled and unskilled labour, in addition to specialised technical roles," the official added.

Policymaking must operate within a framework amid uncertainty: Mishra

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@New Delhi

PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, on Sunday said policymaking must account for uncertainty, focusing on a comprehensive framework and an outcome-driven, constructive mindset.

"In a world characterised by growing uncertainty, it is imperative that our policies and practices operate within a comprehensive framework," he said. He also highlighted the need for a multi-dimensional and dynamic approach, aiming not only for resilience but for the creation of an anti-fragile system.

Addressing a wide range of issues at the Standard Manthan summit, Mishra said that the government had successfully navigated crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and the West Asia crisis, with a focus on 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliance). He credited this success to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who prioritized readiness in addressing challenges by implementing reforms to tackle emergent issues.

On the Indian economy front, Mishra pointed out the several challenges faced, including geopolitical tensions, global supply chain disruptions, and the energy transition.

He praised the government's initiatives, such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and highlighted India's consumption base and demographic advantage.

Mishra described PM's recent visit to the US "positive" for enhancing trade relations. He further noted that the evolution of bilateral, regional, and multilateral relationships in the changing global trade environment is reshaping the economic landscape.

Mishra expressed optimism that India's vast consumption base, demographic advantages, robust digital public infrastructure, and technological capabilities would allow the country to withstand external pressures and negotiate from a position of strength.

Talking about India's agriculture sector, he highlighted that the sector continues to employ approximately 46% of the country's workforce, despite its share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declining from nearly 50% in the 1970s to 18% today. He also addressed reforms in India's civil services, outlining several initiatives aimed at making governance more accessible, efficient, and citizen-friendly.

KUMBH REUNITE

More than 50,000 people who were separated from their families amid the massive crowd of devotees at the 45-day Maha Kumbh were successfully reunited with their loved ones, the UP government said on Sunday.

3 KILLED IN TRUCK-AMBULANCE COLLISION IN BENGAL

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	21	Mumbai	35	25
Bhopal	30	17	Panaji	36	26
Jaipur	27	17	Patna	31	19
Amritsar	22	10	Lucknow	29	14
Chennai	31	26	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	34	24	Imphal	24	14
Srinagar	10	02	Chandigarh	24	11

BSP chief acts against kin for second time due to closeness with his expelled father-in-law

Won't name successor: Mayawati removes nephew from key post

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

DAYS after expelling Ashok Siddharth, a close relative and the father-in-law of her "heir apparent," Akash Anand, Bahujan Samaj Party chief **Mayawati** implemented another shakeup by dismissing her nephew, Akash Anand, from his position as national coordinator. "I will not announce my successor until my last breath and will continue to handle party affairs myself, she stated.

The BSP chief, under whose leadership the party graph has been dwindling relentlessly since 2012, replaced Akash with her brother and Akash's father, Anand Kumar. Another senior party leader, Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Gautam, was also appointed as the party's national coordinator. The former CM chief attributed the action against Akash Anand to his closeness with his expelled father-in-law Ashok Siddharth.

Releasing a statement after replacing Akash with his father, Mayawati said: "You are aware that Siddharth's daughter is married to him (Akash). We will have to watch how much influence Siddharth will exert on his daughter as well as Akash. In such a situation, Akash has been removed from all party responsibilities. Siddharth is completely responsible for this and has damaged the party while ruining Akash's career."

According to BSP insiders, Akash was informed of the decision to remove him from the post of national coordinator at a party meeting in Delhi on February 17. The decision was formally announced on Sunday at a meeting of senior leaders in Lucknow, where Akash was not present.

This is the second time that Mayawati has removed Akash Anand after she announced him as the "successor" of her political legacy. Last time, he was suddenly removed from the party's national coordinator post on May 7, in the middle of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

BSP's graph dwindling since 2012

Mayawati, under whose leadership the party graph has been dwindling relentlessly since 2012, replaced Akash with her brother and Akash's father, Anand Kumar. Another senior party leader, Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Gautam, was also appointed as the party's national coordinator. She attributed the action against Akash Anand to his closeness with his expelled father-in-law Ashok Siddharth.

Mayawati then removed Akash, saying he needed more political maturity to represent the party on public platforms. During the 2014 general elections, Akash was booked for 'promoting enmity' through his election rallies, especially the one held in Sitapur. Akash was first appointed BSP national coordinator in 2019.

Interestingly, Mayawati introduced her second nephew and Akash's younger brother, Ishant Anand, by bringing him forward on the party platform during her birthday celebrations on January 15.

After the Lok Sabah elections, in which BSP failed even to open its account in Uttar Pradesh, Akash was reinstated by Mayawati on June 23. On February 12, Mayawati expelled Ashok Sidhharth from the party and removed him from the post of central-state coordinator for 'anti-party activities'.

Besides Siddharth, Mayawati had also expelled Nitin Singh, a close aide of Siddharth, who accused them of factionalism.

According to BSP insiders, while Anand Kumar will set up the party's camp office in Delhi, Ramji Gautam will travel across the country to connect with the party's supporters.

Cong will not work as 'B' team of RJD in polls, says Bihar in-charge

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

At a time when BJP and JD(U) are consolidating their alliance ahead of Bihar assembly elections, all is not well between Congress and RJD. If the statement of newly appointed Congress in-charge of Bihar Krishna Allavaru's is any indication, seat-sharing among opposition alliance partners will not be an easy task.

Krishna Allavaru, who reached Patna on Sunday for the second time within a fortnight, said that Congress will not work as 'B' team of people in Bihar. Instead, it will work as 'A' team of people, which is a clear signal for its alliance partner, RJD that it would seek a respectable number of seats from it in the upcoming election.

In 2020, Congress had contested 70 seats. However, grand old party could secure its win on 19 seats only. Allavaru, however, clarified that the party would primarily focus on strengthening its support base at booth level before the elections to derive good results.

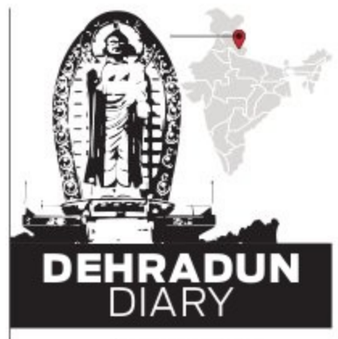
In response to a media query, Bihar in-charge said that talks among grand alliance partners for seat-sharing have not started. But one thing is sure that the party would not work as people's 'B' team this time.

Speaking on possibility of Congress contesting Bihar assembly polls independently, similar on the lines of Delhi, Allavaru said that the party is in the process of formulating electoral strategy for the state assembly elections. Bihar–in-charge made it clear that only those party workers would be given positions in organisation who would work hard on the ground. Similarly, only hard workers will get tickets in the assembly elections.

"The process for the purpose has already started," he told the media.

Sources said that Congress, in fact, wanted to strengthen its support base at village and booth levels and not to rely on RJD. Corroborating RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's statement that double engine government has failed to deliver and has virtually become 'kharata' (outdated), Allavaru said that there is no doubt that the ruling dispensation has not come to the expectations of people.

When asked about Bihar chief minister's son Nishant Kumar's entry into politics, Bihar Congress in-charge said that it was upto to Nitish or Nishant to decide.



DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI

Our correspondent in Uttarakhand

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591 arrested in 2 months in crackdown on drug

In the largest operation against drug trafficking since the formation of Uttarakhand, police have arrested 591 people over the past two months as part of the "Drug-Free Uttarakhand" campaign. Authorities have seized narcotics valued at ₹24.25 crore from these offenders. DGP Deepam Seth reported that 427 cases have been registered in this special operation, leading to the recovery of 936.56 kilograms of illegal drugs.
Additionally, 26 criminals have been detained under the Gangster Act, and assets worth approximately ₹1.74 crore belonging to 15 accused individuals have been confiscated for being illegally acquired.

Industrialists upset over 29% power rate hike

The proposed 29% increase in electricity rates by the state's three power corporations—UPCL (12%), PTCUL (12%), and UJVNL (5%)—has sparked discontent among local industrialists. During a public hearing held by the Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission, industry representatives made it clear that businesses may relocate unless electricity prices are reduced. Pankaj Gupta, president of the Industries Association of Uttarakhand, voiced his concerns: "Every year, electricity rates are being increased. This is alarming and affecting our operations."

Fire service athletes clinch 8 medals

The state's fire service athletes secured a total of 8 medals, including 3 golds, at the Third All India Fire Service Games and Fire Service Meet held at Tyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi from February 28 to March 2. Fireman Mahendra Singh Rawat excelled by winning gold in both Arm Wrestling (35) and Javelin Throw (35). Female fireman Dimple Rawat also made headlines by clinching gold in the 5000-meter race. Additionally, Pinky Rawat earned silver in the 1500-meter race, while Madan Singh Farswan took silver in the Long Jump. Mahendra Singh Rawat added another silver in the Open category for the Javelin Throw.

Minister says daughter harassed in Maha fair, CM Fadnavis vows action

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

UNION minister for state and BJP MP Raksha Khadse on Sunday lodged a police complaint regarding the harassment of her daughter and some of her friends by a group of boys, despite being accompanied by police, at an event in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district. CM Devendra Fadnavis, however, said the accused belong to a political party, and some of them have been arrested.

Khadse lodged the complaint at Muktainagar police station in connection with the incident that occurred at Sant Muktai Yatra in Kothali village in Muktainagar on Friday night. A Jalgaon police officer said, "A case under the POCSO Act has been registered over the incident and one person arrested. Search is on for the other accused."

Talking to reporters, Khade said, "My daughter and her friends were followed and pushed, and their photos and videos were taken. When my staff objected, the boys resorted to unruly behavior. The boys had misbehaved with her. It is unfortunate. If such things happen to an MP or Union minister's daughter, imagine what common people have to go through."

Maharashtra Congress president Harshvardhan Sapkal said, "Women are not safe in Maharashtra. Each day we are witnessing horrible incidents of women harassment. Two days ago, a 26-year-old woman was raped inside the bus. Home minister Devendra Fadnavis has failed to maintain law and order."

He said, "The fact that a minister's daughter was molested even in the presence of security guards is a sign that the law and order has gone haywire. Fadnavis should resign from the post of home minister and give the state a full-time competent home minister for the safety of mothers and sisters in the state."

Speaking to reporters in Raigad, CM Fadnavis said, "Those who harassed Khadse's daughter are from a political party. The local police have arrested some of them and registered a case in this regard."

One held, 5 FIRs registered over Jadavpur case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

FIVE FIRs have been registered, and one person has been arrested so far in connection with the violent clashes at Jadavpur University on Saturday, where Education Minister Bratya Basu was heckled, his car vandalised, and several professors were attacked.

Violence had broken out when students, primarily from ultra-Left organisations, demanded that Basu announce student union election dates on the spot. Tensions escalated when the minister said he could only do so after consulting senior officials. Protesters ransacked the venue, assaulted professors, and later set fire to a university employee's office.

A student who fell in front of the minister's car and sustained serious injuries is undergoing treatment at KPC Hospital. Former JU professor and ex-VC Om Prakash Mishra was also attacked and manhandled by students. Several university professors, including WBCUPA members Monojit Mandal and Samir Chatterjee, also suffered injuries. Meanwhile, Left student leaders accused TMC-affiliated professors of instigating the violence.

J&K Assembly session after over 7 years may be stormy

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

THE maiden Assembly session of Jammu and Kashmir after over seven years is expected to be stormy as issues like Article 370, ban on liquor and reservation disparity are likely to take centre stage and BJP's warning that its legislators won't allow any 'anti-national' bill to be tabled in the House.

The Budget Session will start on Monday with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's address. The legislators have been instructed to maintain decorum and attentively listen to LG's address, which will start at 10 am.

CM Omar Abdullah, who is also finance minister of J&K, will present the budget. The last budget was presented by then PDP finance minister Dr Haseen Drabu in the Assembly in February 2018.

The J&K Legislative Assembly comprises 90 elected members. The number can go up to 95 as the L-G has powers to nominate five members to the house including two women, two from Kashmiri Pandit community including a woman, and one representing displaced persons from PoK. However, Lt Governor has not nominated the five members so far. The issue has gone into backburner as NC enjoys a comfortable majority in the House.

Since one BJP member passed away and CM vacated Budgam seat, of the 88-member J&K Assembly, NC has 41 members with five independents, six Congress and two members one belonging to (CPIM) and AAP supporting the Omar government. BJP has 28 members.

The NC, Congress and BJP held legislature party meetings in Jammu today to chalk out strategy for the Assembly session. Omar also chaired a joint legislature party meeting of coalition partners in Jammu.

The focus of the Assembly will be the private members bill submitted by the legislators.

Peoples Conference chairman and MLA Handwara Sajjad Lone has submitted a bill to condemn the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A by centre on August 5, 2019 and demand its restoration. Three legislators including two from opposition and one from ruling NC have moved bills to seek complete ban on sale and consumption of liquor in J&K.

NC MLA Dr Bashir Ahmed Veeri has submitted a bill seeking rationalisation in reservation in J&K. The bill has sought 60 per cent reservation for Open Merit and 40 per cent for categories. The reservation policy introduced by the L-G administration before Assembly polls last year reduced the Open Merit category to mere 30% and increased the quota for reserved categories to 70%.

'No shankh sound at Badrinath due to avalanche fear'

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

WHILE it is said that Lord Vishnu has a special affinity for the conch shell (shankh), an intriguing rule governs its use in Badrinath Dham. "The sound of the shankh is strictly prohibited in the temple," said a local priest, highlighting the temple's adherence to both religious customs and scientific reasoning.

Local lore suggests that the vibrations produced by the conch could potentially trigger avalanches in the surrounding mountainous region. "This belief is deeply rooted in our traditions and is taken seriously by both devotees and locals," the priest said. As visitors flock to Badrinath, they are reminded that even the smallest actions can have significant implications in such a sensitive environment.

Environmentalist and Chipko movement leader Chandi Prasad Bhatt has highlighted that a significant portion of Badripuri, excluding the main temple of Badrinath, is at high risk of avalanches.

"If we look at past avalanche incidents, Badripuri has suffered damage from avalanches almost every decade. In 2014, a major avalanche caused severe damage in the Narayan Mountain area of Badrinath," said Bhatt, who has played a pivotal role in protecting the Himalayan environment for over five decades. Bhatt, 92, has received accolades, including Padma Vibhushan, Padma Shri, Gandhi Peace Prize, and the Magsaysay Award.

"Avalanches have not only caused loss of life and property in Badripuri but also in Mana and surrounding villages," he told this newspaper.

Social activist Om Prakash Bhatt said, "In Badrinath Dham, we have Nilkanth Mountain, Nar-Narayan, Kanchan Ganga, Satopanth, Mana, and Kuber Mountain. Additionally, there are many other peaks that remain snow-covered. In the past, there used to be heavy snowfall from Badrinath to the Mana region. Due to the fear of avalanches from these snow-capped peaks, the conch shell was not blown in Badrinath temple."

Bhuvan Chandra Uniyal, the religious authority of Badrinath, said, "In Badrinath, the conch shell is used for the Abhishek ritual, and it is also employed to sanctify the offerings made to the deity." However, he said, "It is prohibited to blow the conch shell here. This restriction may very well be in place to prevent the occurrence of avalanches."

'Conch shell used for Abhishek but its blowing banned'

Bhuvan Chandra Uniyal, the religious authority of Badrinath, said, "In Badrinath, the conch shell is used for the Abhishek ritual, and it is also employed to sanctify the offerings made to the deity." However, he said, "It is prohibited to blow the conch shell here. This restriction may very well be in place to prevent the occurrence of avalanches."

Climate change: Punjab sees decline in migratory birds for past six years

HARPREET BAJWA @New Delhi

THE number of migratory birds that fly in from Siberia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Northern Europe to escape the cold winters and reach six protected wetlands in Punjab, including Harike Wildlife Sanctuary north India's largest wetland, is almost the same as last year. However, their numbers have constantly been decreasing for the past six years.

Earlier, the winter season lasted longer, and the birds from these countries stayed here for five to six months, now they hardly stay for about two months. As per the census carried out this year by the Punjab Forest and Wild Life department at Harike north India's largest wetland, this year 55,059 birds of 89 species were spotted against last year's 50,529 of 81 species. But in 2023, their number stood at 65,624 and they belonged to 84 species. In 2018 and 2019, as many as 94,771 birds of 94 species and 1,23,128 birds of 83 species arrived at the wetland site, respectively.

In Kanjli Wetland Conservation Reserve, 20 species and 443 birds were recorded this year as compared to 23 species and 669 birds last year.

In Keshopur–Miani Community Reserve, 78 species with 13,676 birds have been recorded this year as compared to 10,857 birds of 66 species last year. While at Ropar Conservation Reserve the bird count was 1,486 of 44 species this year and last year 1,755 birds and 20 species spotted, and at Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary this year the bird count was 2,411 and 36 species and last year it was 2,400 and 32 species.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab, Dharminder Sharma said, "The change in climatic conditions across the globe might be the reason for migratory birds from those parts of the world choosing other destinations besides reshuffling of species."

Gitanjali Kanwar, Senior Coordinator, Aquatic Biodiversity, World Wildlife Fund-India, said, "The winter season has been very brief as compared to previous years. Earlier, the winters would start around October and continued till March."

GLOBAL WEATHER

City	Max	Min		City	Max	Min	
Beijing	7	-5	SNY	Los Angeles	20	10	SNY
Colombo	32	25	SNY	Melbourne	19	15	LC
Dhaka	31	21	SNY	Moscow	-6	-9	LS
Dubai	26	20	LR	New York	-2	-9	SNY
Houston	17	6	LR	Singapore	30	25	LR
Istanbul	7	4	LR	Toronto	-7	-17	LS
London	7	2	SNY	Washington	11	7	LC

LR: Light Rain ● HR: Heavy Rain ● LS: Light Snow ● TDS: Thundershower ● LC: Light Cloud ● SNY: Sunny

Once-in-a-generation moment for Europe's security: UK

LONDON

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Sunday warned that European security faced a once-in-a-generation moment, as he hosted crisis talks in London on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, just days after a Kyiv-Washington clash.

Starmer said "Europe must do the heavy lifting" in securing peace in Ukraine, as he indicated that several countries were ready to help defend any truce. The British prime minister also again called for US backing to deter Russian President Vladimir Putin from violating any ceasefire, following talks with more than a dozen leaders in central London. "Europe must do the heavy lifting, but to support peace in our continent, and to succeed, this effort must have strong US backing," Starmer told reporters after the meeting.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and French President Emmanuel Macron during a summit on Ukraine in London on Sunday | AFP

The British premier and France's President Emmanuel Macron have said they are prepared to deploy British and French troops to Ukraine to help preserve the peace in the event an agreement is signed to end the war.

The pair are leading attempts to put together a group of countries who would contribute in different ways to the effort, referred to as a "coalition of the willing". "A number of countries have indicated today that they want to be part of the plan that we are developing," said Starmer, without naming the nations. "I'll leave them to make their own statements about exactly how they want to make that contribution," he added.

Starmer said that those willing "will intensify planning now with real urgency".

"Not every nation will feel able to contribute, but that can't mean that we sit back," he added.

US President Donald Trump has yet to commit to any security guarantees but Starmer added that discussions were on the basis "that it will have US backing".

"I would not be taking this step down this road if I didn't think that it was something that would yield a positive outcome in terms of ensuring that we move together, Ukraine, Europe, UK and US," he added.

Starmer also said the America was "not an unreliable ally".

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni appeared to downplay the possibility of Italy contributing peacekeepers, saying "the presence of Italian troops in Ukraine at this stage has never been on the agenda".

"I see this as a solution that risks being very complex and probably less decisive than others," she said.

AFP

HDFC BANK

HDFC BANK LIMITED

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001, Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**1.Mrs. Singh Nidhi, (Borrower)** Perry Johnson Outsourcing Private Limited, **Designation:** Process Support Executive, **Department:** Production, **Employee No:** Pj0621, No 50, Vinay Arcade, 3rd Floor, K.H.Road, Sampangiramnagar, Bengaluru 560027. **2.Mr.Singh Sudipt Narayan, (Co-Borrower)** Dell Corporation, **Designation:** Project Manager, **Department:** Operations, Dell EMC Corporation, Marathalli Ring Road EMC pura, Mahadevpura, Dodankundi, Bangalore 560048. **1.Mrs. Singh Nidhi, 2.Mr. Singh Sudipt Narayan, Both are residing at:** No 103, Shriram Surabhi Apartment, Near Holiday Village, Bengaluru 560062. **Also at:** Flat-B1-ID-701, 7th Floor, Provident Park Square - Phase 1, S NO 3/3,7, 9/2A, 9/2B, 8, 26/1(P), Mallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South, Bangalore 561207.	**Loan A/c No. 633756933 Rs.22,49,816/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixteen Only) as on 31.01.2025**	**18.02.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.12.2024**	**Schedule A: Part A:** The Residential project presently named **"Provident Park Square"** sanctioned by the Bangalore Development Authority vide approval no. 4142/2016-17 dated 26.12.2016 located on all that piece and parcel of non agricultural land converted for residential use bearing Survey Numbers 3/3, 7, 8, 9/2A, 9/2B1, and 26/1(P) Collectively measuring approximately 74,458 square meters (Seventy Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Eight) Situated in Mallasandra Village (off Kankanpura Main Road), Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore - 560 062; bounded on the: **East by :** Holiday Village Road, **West by :** 8th Main Road, Judicial Layout, **North by :** Sy. Nos. 3/1, 3/2 and 9/1, **South by :** Sy. Nos. 8/2 and 26/1. **Part B: Building number 7** (seven) as shown on the sanctioned plan and located at the northern entrance of **"Provident Park Square",** sanctioned for commercial development and being developed and constructed as an independent development by the Promoters; and being separate and independent from the development of the Provident Park Square Project. **Schedule B:** That portion of all that piece and parcel of land comprising the Towers in the project presently named **"Provident Park Square"** sanctioned by the Bangalore Development Authority vide approval no. 4142/2016-17 dated 26.12.2016 located on non-agricultural land converted for residential use bearing Survey Numbers 3/3, 7, 8, 9/2A, 9/2B1, and 26/1(P) measuring approximately 21791.54 sauare meters (Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety One {decimal} Fifty Four) situated in Mallasandra Village (off Kankanpura Main Road), Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore -560 062; bounded on the: **East by :** Land relinquished for Road, **West by :** Portions of Sy. No. 3/3, Sy.No.7, and Sy. No. 8/1, **North by :** Sy. No. 3/1, Sy. No. 3/2, and Sy. No.9/1, **South by :** Sy. No. 8/2, portions of Sy. No. 9/2B1, and Sy.No.26/1(P). **Schedule C:** The Apartment bearing **No. 701** on the Seventh Floor of Tower 1D in Building B1 of Phase - 1 of the Project (shown as B1-1D Tower in the Sanctioned Plan) having a Carpet Area of 33.37 sq. meters. along with **One Open Parking Space(s)** bearing No. B1-1D-701 with a proportionate undivided interest in the Common Areas of Phase 1 of the Project with the non-exclusive right to use the Common Amenities and Facilities of Project.
2	**Mr. Gundappa Vinay Kumar (Borrower)** **Mithra Enterprises, Designation:** Proprietor **M/s Mitra Enterprises (Co-Borrower-2)** **Represented by Mr. Gundappa Vinay Kumar, Both are residing at:** No.23, Shop 1, 6th Main Road, Thimmappana palya, Sahakaranagar P.O., Sri Gandakavalu, Bengaluru 560092. **Mr. Gundappa Vinay Kumar (Borrower)** **Mrs. Shetty Nagini (Co-Borrower-1) Both are residing at:** # 442, 10th A Cross Road, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Vinayaka Layout 9th Block, Bengaluru 560072. **Mr. Gundappa Vinay Kumar (Borrower)** **Mrs. Shetty Nagini (Co-Borrower-1)** **M/s Mitra Enterprises (Co-Borrower-2) All are residing at:** Flat No. F-6, 1st Floor, Vaibhav Meadows Apartment, # 3, 4, 7, 8, 1st Main Road, Nagarabhavi, 1st Block, Ward 73, Bengaluru 560072.	**Loan A/c No: 1) 636908362 Rs.36,61,467/- 2) 639363493 Rs. 1,62,861/- Total Amount. Rs.38,24,328/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Eight Only) as on 31.01.2025**	**19.02.2025** **N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.03.2024**	**Schedule-A:** Building named **'Vaibhav Meadows'** No.03 SL. No.327 New (corporation) Municipal No.326/03, Measuring East to West 12.20 meters, and North to South 18.28 meters, and site bearing BDA No.04 SL No. 328, New (Corporation) Municipal No. 327/04, measuring East to West 12.20 meters, and North to South 18.28 meters, and BDA No.07 SL No.329, New (Corporation) Municipal No.328/07, measuring East to West 12.20 meters and North to South 18.28 meters and BDA No.08 SL No.330 New (Corporation) Municipal No.329/08, Measuring East to West 12.20 meters and North to South 18.28 meters as per Amalgamation of Katha present Corporation No.328/3,4,7 and 8 in all totally measuring East to West 24.40 Meters, and North to South 36.56 Meters situated at Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, 1st Block, Bengaluru, the Layout formed by the Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru. In the Land bearing Sy. No.24 of Sajjepalya, Yashawanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward no.73., Bengaluru - 560072, and bounded on the; **East by** : Site Nos. 5 and 6, **West by** : Site Nos. 2 and 9, **North by** : Road, **South by** : Road. And measuring East to West 24.40 meters. And North South 36.56 meters. In all totally having an area of **9600.00 Sq.Ft** together with basement floor, ground floor, 1st Floor and 2nd Floor and 3rd Floor Apartments building thereon. **Schedule-B: 1/28** undivided share of right, title and interest in land comprised in 'A' Schedule property undivided by feet and bounds would be to 375.00 Sq.ft proportionate of land out of 9600.00 Sq.ft. **Schedule-C:** All the that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment/Flat bearing No. F- 6 in the 1st Floor of the Building having **1100.00 Sq.ft.,** BBMP 'B' Register Extract No.3/4/78/24 of built up area on 'A' Schedule property consisting of Three Bed Rooms, one Living/Dining hall, one Kitchen, one attached toilet and One general toilet, which includes undivided share in common areas, Passages lobbies, lift, staircases and other areas of common use with one covered Car Parking Space in basement floor of the 'A' Schedule property. The said flat/Apartments is having a separate Electricity Meter from BESCOM with single phase power connection together with other amenities and the apartment is constructed with cement bricks and vitrified tiled flooring, RCC roofing, teak wood Doors and powder coated steel windows with water, electricity and sanitary from the common lines and other amenities.
3	**Mr. Nagavisweswar Byrepalli (Borrower)** PBEL City, F 1504, F Block, Peerenceheruvu, Near TSPA, Ranga Reddy Dist, Hydershahkote, Hyderabad-Ap, Telangana 500091. **Also at:** No 14/355/1, Maruthi Nilayam, Palace Road, Kuppam, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh 517425. **Also at:** Health Asyst Private Limited **Designation:** Test Lead, **Department:** Technical, **Employee No:** 1197, No 147, 3rd Floor, Anjaneya Techno Park, Kodihalli, Artillery Road, Bengaluru 560008. **Also at:** CGI Information Systems and Management Consultants Private Limited, **Designation:** Lead Analyst, **Department:** SIT, **Employee No:** 205824, 2nd Floor, 3rd Block DLF, Cyber City, APHB Colony, Hyderabad 500091. **Also at:** Flat-B006, Ground Floor, Sai Sunshine (Gardens), Nyanappanahalli, Beguru Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru 560 076.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 607008176 Rs.25,74,374/- 2) 608704909 Rs.1,42,724/- 3) 636992431 Rs.6,45,308/- Total Amount: Rs.33,62,406/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred and Six Only) as on 31.01.2025**	**18.02.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.07.2024**	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of the Converted Land measuring to an extent of 38 guntas (41,380 sq.ft.) presently BBMP Khata bearing No.611/21/1,(Old Nos.. 604, 606, 609, 610 and 611, formed in converted Survey No 21/1. vide Conversion Order No ALN(DB) SR 34/35/36/37/38/2009-10 dated 07/09/2009, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue). Bangalore District, presently comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike limits, Ward No.193, situated at Nyanappanahalli Village. Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, and bounded on: **East by :** Road and private property, **West by :** Private property, **North by :** Private property (vacant sites) and road, **South by :** Pradhan palican apartments and private houses **Schedule B: 330 Sq. Feet** of undivided share in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A Property **Schedule C:** Two Bedroom Apartment bearing **No. 006** on the **Ground Floor, B Block,** in the building known as **"SAI SUNSHINE"** constructed on the schedule A property with a super built-up area of **1050 Square Feet** (which is inclusive of proportionate share in balconies, common areas attributable thereto) with access to the terrace area, that is lift room and water tank or repairs with exclusive right to use **one covered car parking space** in the stilt floor, vitrified flooring, aluminium sliding window and doors/door frames are made by ordinary wood.
4	**Mrs. Anjali Pudiyokkada Ganapathy (Borrower),** King Fahad Specialist Hospital, **Designation:** Staff Nurse, **Department:** Neuro Science B1, **Employee No:** 5481, PO BOX 15215 Dammam 31444, Dammam, Saudi Arabia. **Also at:** No 6/B, Maragondanahalli Main Road, Anandapura, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru 560036. **Also at:** P.O. Box No.: 55, Room 23, Hospital Compound, King Fahad Specialist Hospital, Dammam, KSA, Building 55 Dammam, Saudi Arabia. **Also at:** Plot 36, S No 6-B, House 35, Khatta 35/6B, Bidarahalli Village, Site 6-B, Prop No 35, Kh No 35/6B, Maragondanahalli Village, Bengaluru 560036. **Mr. Bopanna P G, (Power of Attorney)** No.6/B, Maragondanahalli Main, Anadapura, K R Puram, Next to Airtel Tower, Bengaluru-560036.	**Loan A/c Nos. 627831219 Rs.35,09,614 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Nine Thousand and Six Hundred and Fourteen Only) as on 31.01.2025**	**18.02.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.10.2024**	All that part and parcel of property bearing **SITE NO.6-B,** in Property No.35, Katha No.35/6B, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, Now Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East To West 30 Feet And North To South 40 Feet, in all **measuring 1200 Square Feet** and property being bounded: **On the East By :** Property Belongs To Muniraj Reddy, **On the West By :** Site No.6A, **On the North By :** 15 Feet Road, Thereafter Sité No.7, **On the South By :** Property Belongs To Muniraj Reddy. The schedule property consisting of **300 Square Feet R.C.C. Roofed** red oxide flooring, jungle wood doors and windows and property provided with electricity facility.
5	**Mr. Suresh Babu Narayanappa, (Borrower),** Eye Automobiles P Ltd, **Designation:** Director, No 30, Kr Puram, Old Madras Road, Krisnarajapuram, Bengaluru 560036, **Also at:** No 126, 7th Main, Thambu Chetty Palya Main Road, Raghavendra Nagar, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru 560016, **Also at:** Flat-S7, 2nd Floor, P V Paradise, Plot Na, Katha No.13, Behind Govt Hospital, New Police Station Road, 2nd Cross, Narayan Shetty Road, KR Puram, Bengaluru 560036	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 624326800 Rs.44,79,466/- 2) 626140294 Rs. 2,91,542/- Total Amount: Rs.47,71,008/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Seventy One Thousand and Eighty Only) as on 31.01.2025**	**18.02.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.08.2024**	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) amalgamated katha No.13, (old nos. 13, 13A, 14, and 19) situated at behind Govt. Hospital left side road of new police station, 2nd cross, Narayanasetty Road, Krishnarajapura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, comes under the administrative limit of BBMP, jointly measuring 108 feet + 113feet/2 x 153 feet in all measuring 16906.5 Square Feet, and jointly bounded thereon: **East by :** Property of Nanjappa And Private Property, **West by :** Property of Ramaiah & Joseph and Property No. 15, **North by :** Property of Sanjeevaiah, **South by :**30 Feet Road. **Schedule B: 585 Square Feet,** undivided right, title and interest in the immovable Property mentioned in Schedule A" above. **Schedule C:** Flat bearing **No. S-7,** in the Second Floor, measuring about **1645 square feet, super built up area,** consisting Three bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring together with **Two Covered Car Parking Space,** including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., of multi-storeyed residential building known as **"PV. PARADISE"** constructed over Schedule A" property.
6	**Mr. Mandeep (Borrower),** Indian Oil Corporation Limited, **Designation:** Operator, **Department:** LPG, Indane Bottling Plant, Kiadb Area, Machenahalli, Nidige Post, Shimoga 577222. **Also at:** House No 2, Maruti Krupa Beside Ideal School, 6th Cross, Vidyanagar Shimoga, Vidyanagar, Kadekal, Near Central Library, Shimoga 577203, **Also at:**Unit-C-007-Block-C, Ground Floor, Platinum Gardenia Apartment, S No 80, Kembathahalli Village, Anjanapura Sub Division, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru 560083.	**Loan A/c Nos. 673461745 Rs.45,69,643/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand and Six Hundred and Forty Three Only) as on 31.01.2025**	**18.02.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.12.2024**	**Schedule -A :** All that piece and parcel of Residentially Converted land bearing Sy.No.80, BBMP Khatha No.93/431/Sy.No.80, measuring 2 Acres 04 guntas (8505.03 Sq.Mtr) in situated at Kembathahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on: **East** : Portion of Land in Sy.No.80, **West** : Land belonging to K.Umadevi in Sy.No.79, land bearing Sy.No.78 of Kembathahalli, Village, Land belonging to Maheshwari Temple, **North** : Road, **South** : Road. **Schedule – B**: **429.57 Sq.ft** of Undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in the Schedule "A" Property. **Schedule – C:** All the piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment bearing **No.007, Ground Floor, C-Block,** Two Bed room in the building known as **"PLATINUM GARDENIA",** with 797.85 sq.ft of **Carpet area** and **1135.5 sq.ft** of Super built up area constructed on the Schedule A Property along with **One covered car parking area** bearing No. C-007 in the Basement floor and provided with water, electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircase and other areas of common use etc.
7	**1. Mr. Pushpakumar J** Son of Mrs. Malliga **(Co-Borrower)** [since deceased], **2. And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s) of Mrs. Malliga (Borrower) [since deceased],** Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mrs. Malliga (Borrower)[since deceased] **3. Mr. Pushpakumar J, (Borrower), All are residing at:** No 566 Allamellamma Nilaya, 10th C Main Road, Near HDFC ATM, Rajajinagar, 6th Block, Bengaluru 560010. **Also at:** No 2/1, 14th Cross, 10th C Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010. **Also at:** Flat-C2-1306, Floor-13, VBHC Palm Haven -C Block, Doddabele Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru 560060. **3.Mr. Pushpakumar J (Borrower),** Manipal Health Enterprises Private Limited. **Designation:** Senior Team Member, **Department:** Biling And Insurance, No 98/2 Rustom Bagh Road, The Annexe Bangalore 560017.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 655199891 Rs.21,38,024/- 2) 656991374 Rs. 94,663/- Total Amount: Rs.22,32,687/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Seven Only) as on 31.01.2025**	**18.02.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.12.2024**	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing (E-Khata) Property No.150200302600221361, measuring an extent of 15 Acre 1.25 Guntas, situated at survey numbers 25, 28/1, 28/2, 29/4, 29/6, 29/7, 29/9, 29/10, 29/11, 29/12, 29/13, 29/14, 29/15 & 32/1A, Doddabele Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the: **East by :** Land of Nagarajappa, foot path and Vrushabhavaty valley, **West by :** 12-meter-wide RMP 2015 road, **North by :** Survey Number 32, 33, private property, **South by :** Survey No.28/1 (Palmhaven Phase-1),26, 25. **Schedule B: 226.61 square feet** undivided share in the Schedule 'A' Property corresponding to the Schedule "C" Residence taking into consideration the FAR achieved on the Schedule 'A' Property; **Schedule C:** A One Bedroom Apartment bearing **No.1306 on the 13th Floor of Wing C2 Block 'C',** with E-KHATA number 150200302600221769 in the Project in the development known as **"VBHC PALMHAVEN-II"** developed on the Schedule 'A' Property. having a **Carpet Area of 354.03 square feet** and Saleable Area of 540.40 square feet along with NO Car Parking space/s with proportionate share in the Common Area and the non-exclusive right to use of the Common Area, the Common Amenities and Facilities of the Project.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 03.03.2025
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-6) AT BANGALORE

O.S. No. 2304/2024

BETWEEN : Smt. Jayamma,
W/o. Sri. Bhaskarachar, Aged about 45 years, R/at. Naganahalli Village, Jodihosahalli Grama Panchayath, Hutridurga Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District-572 130. **...Plaintiff**
AND: Smt. Ashwathalakshmi ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC:-

Smt. Ashwathalakshmi,
W/o. Sri. Rangaswamaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/at: No.5, Subbanna Layout, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.

Wherefore, the Plaintiff are filed the above suit against the Defendant for specific performance of contract and such other relief in respect of schedule properties involved in the said suit.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this court either in person or through advocate **on 26.03.2025 at about 11.00 AM.** Failing which wherein the matter will be declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the site eastern portion of Site bearing No.7, measuring East to West: 15 ft., and North to South: 38 ft., totally measuring 570 Sq.ft., along with constructed residential house measuring East to West: 15 ft., and North to South: 24 ft., ground floor and 1st floor formed in Sy.No. 10/4, measuring 0.11 guntas, situated at Mutthurayaswamy Layout, Sunkadakatte Village, Srigandhakavalu Dhakle, Yashavanthapuara Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, bounded on:-

East by : Property belongs to Kariyanna and Yashodha, **West by :** Site No.8 belongs to Ramkumar and Road, **North by :** 2 feet Galli and property belongs to Nagaraj M.G. **South by :** 1 feet Galli and property belongs to Parimala.

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court is 10.02.2025.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff : **Y.D. SHIVASHANKARA**
No. 169/18, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, Vidyaranyanagar, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore-560 023. Mob No: 99641 84483
Email: shivashankaryd123@gmail.com

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 AT BANGALORE

O.A. No. 37/2019

BETWEEN : Union Bank of India
Uttarahalli Branch, No. 629/443/2A, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore - 560001.
Rep. by it's Manager **...APPLICANT**
AND : 1. Raghu Chavan, aged 37 years, S/o. Jagadish Chavan
2. Jyothi Srinivas, aged 37 years, W/o. Raghu Chavan, Both R/at. Flat. No. TF-2, 3rd Floor, Sumukha Paradise Apartment, Site No. 102 & 103, 6th Nanda Kumar Layout, Bangalore-560061. **...DEFENDANTS**

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT 1 to 3 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE RULES) 1993

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debt due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993, against you for the recovery of sum of **Rs. 48,00,458/- (Rupees Forty Eight lakhs four Hundred and Fifty Eight only)** along with current chargeable interest at 10.25% p.a Compounded and other relieves. You are required to show cause within 30 days from the date of this publication or **on 16.04.2025 at 10.30 a.m** in person or by Advocate duly instructed as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the above mentioned day, the proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 26th day of November 2024.

Registrar, Debt Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known by all that our client, Mrs. Mangala Mandloi, wife of Gendalal Mandloi has misplaced the following original documents: (a) Sale Deed dated 10.11.1980 (Registered as Document No. 2934/1980-81, Book-I, Volume 2186, at pages 139-142, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar); (b) Sale Deed dated 11.06.1982 (Registered as Document No. 1156/1982-83, Book-I, Volume 2186, at pages 139-142, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar); and (c) Agreement of Sale dated 12.03.1991 (Registered as Document No. 251/1991-92, Book-I, Volume 3092, at pages 186-188, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar). She has also filed the Lost Article Report with the Karnataka State Police in connection to the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person is in possession of the same or is to find it, to return it fortwith to my counsels M/s Dharma Law Partners at the address below within 15 (fifteen) days of this notice.

(Sd/-) **Tejas Khiraiya,** Partner,
Dharma Law Partners,
507, Westminster Building, Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560052
Date: 03.03.2025 Place: Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF XL ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH 41)
I.A No 1 of 2024
IN
OS 8105/2004

01. The Commercial Banks Retired Employees Association (Regn No. 293/2001) having its registered office at 87, (New No. 2) 4th Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Chennai-20 represented by its Secretary V.Vasudevan S/0 G R Venkataraman aged 73 years currently residing at D 105, Serene Adinath, Chennai 600048, Tamil Nadu,
2. R Satyanarayna Raju, S/o, RVSSN Raju, aged 71 years residing at D.No 2-319, Danduvari Street, Vedueswaram, Ravalapaem Mandalam, E.G Dist, Andhra Pradesh,- 533238
3. G Deviprasad, S/o, G Subrahmanyam, Since deceased by his Lrs **3(a) G. Vasundara,** W/o. G. Deviprasad, **3(b) Mr. G. Ravindar,** S/o. G. Deviprasad, **3(C) Mrs G.G. Jayashree,** D/o. G. Deviprasad, All are R/o. 14, 2nd Cross, 2nd Floor, Minor Trustpuram, Choolaimedu, Chennai-600 094 **Plaintiff/s**
And 01 Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, represented by its Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, having its Head office Plot No C-27, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra East, Mumbai-400051
Also at No 22, M G Road, Bangalore 560001 and functioning through its various branches all over the country **Defendant**

NOTICE UNDER ORDER 1 RULE 8 OF CPC

ANDWHEREAS, the above named Plaintiff/s have filed the above O.S. No 8105 of 2004 as a representative suit under Order I Rule 8 of CPC against the defendant seeking deprived pensionary benefits in terms of Pension Regulations, 1995 in the nature of mandatory injunction with the following prayer:
a) to pay Pension by taking into account the last drawn 10 months average pay as provided under Reg.2(d); **b)** to pay Pension by taking into account the special pay and fixed personal pay as per service conditions, **c)** to pay Additional Pension by taking into account the special pay/allowances as provided under Reg 35(3); **d)** to pay Deamess Relief as provided under Reg. 37 and Appendix II, **e)** to pay Pension by adding 5 years notional service as provided under Reg 29(5): **f)** to pay the difference in the encashment of leave by taking a month as consisting of 26 working days instead of 30, **g)** to pay interest @ 12% per annum on the amount due as aforesaid;
in which the Hon'ble Court in IA 1 of 2024 above, is pleased to permit Mr P.G Sharankumar, presently Secretary to 1st Plaintiff association (having Mobile No 9994312546 / Email: pgsharanvb@gmail.com) and Mr. R Satyanarayna Raju (having mobile No 8919032862) Plaintiff-2, both retired under VRS-2002 from Vysya Bank Ltd, to represent all those pensioners from Vysya Bank (Now Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd on amalgamation) retired under VRS 2002 having same interest as prayed in the suit and ordered for Publication of Notice for the purpose.
Interested parties are hereby all pensioners retired under VRS-2002 from Defendant Bank having similar interest/grievance as prayed for are hereby called either in person or through their Advocate may implead themselves as party to support the suit or defend against the suit as the case may be, before the above said Court **on 15.03.2025 at 11. A.M.** within 15 days of this notice, failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared Ex- parte

By order of the Court Sd/- Senior Sheristedar City Civil Court Bengaluru

P S RANGANATHAN Advocate
1030/A, 4TH Main Road D Block, II Stage, Rajaji Nagar Bangalore 560010. Mobile No 9449458157
E-mailid: psr1949@rediffmail.com
Counsel for the Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that My Client **Sri. A Mani S/o. Sri. Appaswamy, R/a. No. 45, 4th Main, Kalyananagara, Mudalapalya, Bangalore 560072** had got the the Schedule Property through Absolute Sale Deed Dated 03-06-2022, However the larger extmextent of the schedule property was possesed and owned by sri Kuppaswamy and intends Sell the Schedule Property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder to **Sri. Sathish Kumar G S/o. Ganesh S.**

My Client has lost the Gift Deed Dated **05.02.2022** Registered as Document No. **17067/2001-02,**in SRO Bangalore North Taluk and the same has been registered in the Lost Report bearing No.1501683/2025.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that if any legal heirs of Sri kuppaswamy and representatives of legal heirs persons, entity, company, firm, institution has or claims any right, title, interest, pending Litigation, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within **07 (Seven) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which it shall be deemed that the aforesaid owners has a clear and marketable title to the schedule Property and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and my client would be at liberty to proceed to purchase the schedule Proeprty. Any Claims received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 49, Municipal No. 49, having BBMP PID No. 38-19-49, Situated at Muddalapalya, Kalyan Nagara, 4th Main Road, comes under the BBMP Ward No. 127 (Old Ward No. 38) measuring East to West : 15 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all Measuring 600 Sq. Ft. and bounded on the:

East by : Remaining Portion of Same Site No. 49, **West by** : Other's Property, **North by** : Other's Property, **South by** : Road.

Mohan Ram B R, Advocate
No. 47/1, Austin Plaza, Austin Town, Bangalore-560047. Contact No. 8722671564
02-03-2025, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF THE IInd ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA

CMis.No.29/2025

Petitioner:
Sri Narasimhamurthy.A
S/o Late Anjinappa
Aged about 55 years,
R/at Siddenayakanahalli,
Ward no 5, Shivapura Post,
Doddaballapura Town,
Bangalore Rural District.
V/s
Respondent
Registrar of Birth and Death
CMC, Doddaballapura

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13(3) Of Registration of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Mother by name SMT ANJINAMMA W/O LATE ANJINAPPA who died on 20.05.1971 at Siddenayakana halli., Doddaballapura Town, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 4/4/25 at 11-00 am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on the 28/2 day of 2025.

By order of the court.
Chief Ministerial Officer
Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate
Sri B C Rajanna. B.A, B.Ed, L.L.B
No.20 D, II Floor, HMS Complex,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bangalore – 560002

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No 21 of 2024-25

0-1556

1. Name of the Work: - Construction of check dams and Rural Piped Water Supply scheme.
   (Refer DTCN available in the website :- tendersorissa.gov.in)
2. Total No of work :- 11 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 102.14 Lakh to 285.72 Lakh
4. Eligible Bidder :- 'B' & 'A' class Contractor
5. Period of Completion :- 08 (Eight) months to 10 (ten) Months
6. **Other Details :-**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Date and time for opening of Technical Bid
		From	To	
Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Phulbani	21 of 2024-25	Dt. 06.03.2025 At. 10.00 Hrs	Dt. 20.03.2025 Up to. 17.00 Hrs	Dt. 21.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Phulbani

OIPR-25006/11/0006/2425

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₹34,574 CR have been pulled out by foreign investors from the Indian equity markets in Feb.

Why are equity mkts in firm bear grip?

Experts say even if there is a pull back in markets, investors should be cautious as there is no guarantee for recovery

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

THE benchmark indices are down as much as 16% from the peak they had scaled on September 26, 2024, when the Sensex closed at 85,836.12 and the Nifty scaled to 26,216.05, from 73,198 and 22,125, respectively, while midcaps are bleeding by 30%.

Last Friday alone the market tanked almost 2% each after the US president Donald Trump repeated 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada and an additional 10% over the previously announced 10% duties on Chinese goods landing on the US shores from March 4, along with a threat to slap 25% on EU goods soon. This is the longest losing streak running into five full months ending February 28, making it the worst period in the past 30 years, and the second worst bear-hug in history when the rout lasted eight months between September 1995 and April 1996, tanking by over 31%. The previous five months fall was during July-November in 1996, eroding the market value by 26%. But the current bloodbath is much higher in terms of losses, which is a staggering ₹107 lakh crore in market cap and a whopping ₹ 50 lakh crore erosion in investor wealth! .

What's plaguing the mkts?

There are myriads of issues that are running down the market and investor sentiment.

While the first trigger was foreign funds, allured by the highly beaten-down Chinese stocks, began to pull out to park their monies in Chinese stocks after Beijing announced a big stimulus but never implemented fully. Though since then many brokerages said China was still not a good investing story given the deep-rooted structural issues plaguing the world's second largest market and economy, foreigners continued to sell after Trump stormed back to the White House, leading to a rally in the US stocks and the greenbacks.

Another reason is the massive slump in the domestic growth story, and a bleeding rupee which had sniffed at ₹88 early February losing almost 4.5% since October only added to the pains, along with the falling earnings of India Inc.

Growth slump

While the economy was talked up to a good start in the beginning with the RBI forecasting over 7.2% uptick in FY25, it just lost the momentum in the first quarter itself with GDP slowing to a 6.6% (revised estimate from 6.4%) which was correctly attributed to the missing government capex due to the hustings.

But the biggest negative was the slump in Q2 when it slumped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% and the Q3 printing in at 6.2% turned out to be a non-event for the markets.

Be cautious

The US tariff tantrums have only added to the already mounting pressure on the market due to domestic issues, like falling growth, slumping consumer demand, among others according to a note by Asit C Mehta Intermediates.

The issue is more to do with a crisis of confidence and not data driven per se and this is the main reason for the current panic trends, says another analyst, adding given these, even if there is a pull back this week, investors should be cautious as there is no guarantee that the recovery will be strong enough. At the same there are market-men who say it's time investors get back to the highly beaten down blue-chips provided they have a 12-24 months patience. Yet the overriding word is caution.

IN CONVERSATION

SWAPNIL JAIN
Co-founder & CTO, Ather Energy

'Right product helping us expand beyond south mkt'

IPO-READY electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ather Energy, which recently expanded its R&D and testing capabilities in Bengaluru, has found success in the northern market with its newly launched e-scooter Rizta. **Swapnil Jain, Co-founder & CTO, Ather Energy** in an interaction with TNIE's **Uma Kannan**, says the company was focusing on the Southern market for a long time and now with the right product they are expanding into other places, especially the North. The Hero MotoCorp-backed company has two manufacturing plants in Tamil Nadu and another one is coming up in Maharashtra. Jain also spoke about why the growing competition is good for them, its market share and R&D capabilities. Edited excerpts:

In CY2024, the overall EV two-wheeler sales grew by 33%, but Ather's sales grew only 20% y-o-y and your market share was 11%. But in January 2025, sales improved and you sold 13,040 units. What kind of growth are you expecting going forward?
There have been multiple factors to it. If you again look at the market share data for this month (February), you will be convinced that we are not growing slower. In between, we had a slowdown and that was because of a transition. People were anticipating a new product and we introduced the Rizta. Following the new launch, we came back on track and have been doing good. It's a journey for us. We have been focusing on the South for a long time, and now we are expanding into other places because we now have the right product for the North.

What difference are you seeing between the South and the North markets?
The customer preference in the South is very different compared to the North. Ather 450 is something that works really well in the South, but doesn't work well for North India, as people there prefer a bulkier product. With respect to serving, the North customer is very different from serving a South customer. The Rizta has received a very good response there. We have grown significantly, especially in Gujarat because the State loved us as a brand but we didn't have the right product. As soon as we launched the new product, our market share there went up from 5% to almost 22-23%.

With more OEMs, you get comfortable as a user and you start using tech. Incumbents are also bringing products into the market. Competition is very helpful.

Can we expect a new product from you in the near future? Also, any plans to launch a motorcycle?
A lot of work is going on at Ather. Our focus is to first build the platform. It took us five years to build the 450 platform and then we built many products on it. So, we are in a similar stage in terms of motorcycle and new products. We are working on two new platforms. When will they be converted into a product? I think I might not be able to answer that, but there is a lot of work happening to make a robust platform that can quickly turn out products.

How are you looking at the growing competition in the EV market?
I feel competition is good, especially when it comes to new technologies. For example, let's say if you had only ChatGPT, you may not be comfortable. Now you see Google is also offering a chatbot. When you see many people offering it, you become comfortable. And the same thing happens in the EV industry. With more OEMs, you get comfortable as a user and you start using technology. Competition is very helpful.

With the expansion of the R & D facility, what exactly are you looking at?
It is not good enough to build quality products alone, you have to build them faster. You have to disrupt yourself every 6 months. Personally, I have a vision for the entire R&D team that they don't settle, but keep disrupting every 6 months.

MONEY-WISE

RIDING THE STORM WITH LARGE CAP MFs

FINANCIAL ADVICE
ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

THERE is a growing school of thought in the market that large cap funds are a relatively safer haven to ride the ongoing selling storm at the Indian bourses. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in October 2017, defined a Large cap fund as an open-ended equity-oriented mutual fund scheme that invests at least 80% of its under management (AUM) in large cap stocks. SEBI further defines a large-cap company as those listed companies which are ranked from 1st to 100th company in the Indian stock exchanges in the terms of market capitalization.

Market capitalization is calculated by multiplying the number of a company's shares outstanding by its stock price per share. Every quarter, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) publishes a list of the top 100 companies by market cap. Fund managers usually follow this list when making investments in large-cap stocks.

Historically, large cap funds have provided relatively better stability to the portfolio during volatile market conditions as compared to mid or small cap funds. Since its component, large-cap companies are relatively well-established and of reasonable size, are presumed to be safer. Conversely though, on the upside, it may not offer the same growth opportunities as compared to a small or mid-cap fund.

Since large-cap funds qualify as equity assets, any sale made within a year from the date of purchase is liable for Short Term Capital Gain (STCG) and attracts 20% tax. For any sale made after the investment has completed a year, Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax is applicable at 12.5% on capital gains over ₹ 1.25 lakh.

Those investing in Large Cap funds must do so knowing that the underlying asset is equity with all its attendant risks. Yet, investing in large-cap funds is often used as a core long-term investment strategy as it is perceived to be less risky than mid-cap, small-cap, multi-cap and flexi-cap funds.

Yet, it would be prudent to note that it is less risky only when compared to Small Cap and Mid-cap mutual funds. No equity investment is completely risk-free. Also, since risk & returns are directly related, the returns too are lesser when compared to small-cap and mid-cap funds in a market that is trending upwards.

It is thus a natural corollary that since it is a pure equity fund, the investment should ideally be for a long period to generate better returns.

While there may be select periods where the near-term returns are superior to the long-term returns, more often than not, and particularly since the underlying asset is equity, the long term returns of a large cap fund outscore its near-term returns.

Given the recent battering of mid and small cap stock in the Indian market following unprecedented selling by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), a lot of fund managers have sought refuge in the large cap space to weather the ongoing storm. Many also believe that the rebound too will begin there from, especially given the relative valuation comfort provided by this space.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF THE STOCK MARKET SELL-OFF

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE
RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THERE is a lot of chatter on social media about the fall in the equity markets in India. There are estimates galore about the amount of wealth eroded due to this sell-off. Nithin Kamath of Zerodha has articulated that trading volumes have slumped across categories. That could mean lower commissions for brokers and lower securities transaction tax for the government. Foreign portfolio investors sold about $40 bn worth of Indian shares in six months, and worries about US trade relations are offered as explanations for the fall.

You may want to note that expectations of tomorrow's profits influence share prices. The way the above factors affect Indian shares needs to be understood well.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) put out a report on India's macro fundamentals last week. The global institution expects India's economy to grow steadily over the next few years. "Real GDP is expected to grow at 6.5% in 2024/25 and 2025/26, supported by robust growth in private consumption on the back of sustained macroeconomic and financial stability," said the institution in its latest review of the Indian economy. Businesses need such macroeconomic and financial stability besides growth. That means companies riding on that economic growth will continue to grow profits. The market thumb rule is that profits grow more than twice that rate.

With a correction in share prices, companies that generate business and profits riding on India's economic growth and consumption are likely to get attractive. According to one media report, several large-cap companies are trading at a valuation last seen before the pandemic in 2020. However, many mid-cap to small-cap companies trade at a multiple that is much higher than five years ago despite the current sell-off. The sell-off will likely continue in richly valued companies as investors are unlikely to give that high premium they once enjoyed. There is a reason for that. Foreign investors have other options. They have quality businesses trading at a discount to their fundamentals in markets like the US, China and other countries. Expect foreigners to continue to sell Indian equities and Indian domestic mutual funds to pick up shares at lower levels.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

That may not be such a bad thing. Price-to-earnings ratios of 80 to 100 are difficult to justify forever. Those levels show expectations of profit growth were sky-high. A stock market phase where share prices are catching up with profit growth is better for investors than the one where profits are trying to meet expectations. If share prices fall due to a sustained sell-off by foreigners but profit growth remains the same, market valuations can go from overpriced to attractive.

You must know the sectors affected by global trade issues and US economic growth. India's exports to the US are relatively lower than those of China, Mexico, and Canada. Any trade war would hurt export-centric businesses in these countries first. There is a reaction in the IT services sector stocks. That is visible in the sharp fall in the Nifty IT index. You may want to carefully listen to company managements on the US market outlook in April 2025.

Stay Calm

It is usually not the advice you heed when things are volatile. However, you need to figure out a way to stay calm. If you are trading in the stock market by borrowing, you may want to unwind your positions and pay off these loans. However, you must not rush to pull out your money if you are a long-term investor. A conversation with your financial advisor can help you calm your nerves. If you are confident about your future income and are a long-term investor, you should look at the correction in the stock market as an opportunity.

Revision in GDP nos raises data quality concerns

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE recently announced GDP estimates for third quarter of 2024-25, second advance estimates of 2024-25, and revised & final GDP estimates of 2023-24 & 2022-24 show drastic revision in some of the estimates made earlier.

For example, the 2023-24 GDP growth estimate has been revised sharply upwards by 100 basis points to 9.2% from the earlier 8.2%, making the growth during the financial year one of the fastest in the last decade. Similarly, the gross value added (GVA) has been revised upwards from 7.2% to 8.6% for FY24. The second quarter 2024-25 GDP growth numbers were revised upwards by 40 basis points, from 5.4% to 5.8%. There were other revisions as well. The 2022-23 final GDP growth has been revised down by 20 basis points to 7.6%.

Smaller revisions in GDP estimate numbers are a common practice, what baffles analysts and economists are the massive revisions. As Madhavi Arora, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, quips: "Massive upward revisions to past years and quarters have made the GDP forecast exercise extremely dynamic." Projections that miss actual numbers by such a large margin lead to wrong policy decisions by the government as well as private entities. If accuracy of government data becomes a suspect, the effectiveness of policy making comes under scrutiny as well.

"One of the sharpest revisions in recent years makes it difficult to interpret the data appropriately. Data revisions are understandable as the statistics office has access to more data as compared to provisional estimates. Yet quality of data remains a concern," Kunal Kundu, India Economist at Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Banking.

Kundu sees more issues with such sharp revisions in GDP numbers. He says the discrepancy component in GDP calculation should have moved closer to zero with more relevant data, but it remains unchanged. He points out that despite no major revision in WPI data, the GDP deflator changed significantly in certain periods.

Why the revisions

Shubhada Rao, economist and founder QuantEco, an independent economic research firm, explains: "Provisional GDP numbers usually rely on listed firms' data. The unlisted (unorganised) firms' data is usually available with a lag. It is likely that unlisted firms fared better and hence such a substantial upward revision."

According to Manoranjan Sharma, chief economist, Infomerics Ratings, this is a multi-layered issue and involves greater data coverage, changes in research methodology and adoption of best practices elsewhere to make the process of data computation more scientific and realistic. "My limited point here is that such periodic data revisions should not be summarily dismissed but need to be carefully considered in the light of the transforming big picture and the granular details to make an objective assessment of the comprehensive national income growth process," says Sharma.

Sunil Kumar Sinha, professor of Economics at Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh, explains that generally in an upswing, initial estimates tend to underestimate the GDP and hence revisions tend to push GDP upwards and vice versa. He says even during the 2004-2009 period revisions pushed GDP upwards and sharply for a year or two.

NCLAT dismisses Deloitte Haskins and Sells' plea

PTI @ New Delhi

APPELLATE tribunal NCLAT has dismissed petitions by Deloitte Haskins and Sells and its two associates, challenging the admissibility of the second interim investigation report by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) on Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IFIN).

The petitions also contested the compilation submitted by the government (MCA) to the tribunal. The compilation included documents related to the IFIN investigation report and the amended request regarding the proceedings against them to freeze their assets based on the second interim report by SFIO.

A two-member bench of the NCLAT upheld an earlier order issued by the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal. On July 22, 2024, the tribunal ruled that the second interim SFIO report, along with the accompanying documents, could be considered for both interim relief and the final declaration. "We, thus, are of the view that the second SFIO Report as well as the compilation of documents filed by the Union of India before the NCLT was fully admissible and can be looked into by the NCLT for proceeding under Section 212 (14A) and no error has been committed by the Adjudicating Authority (NCLT) in rejecting IA No 65 of 2024," the NCLAT said.

Holt beats Mochizuki to win Bengaluru Open

American tennis player Brandon Holt clinched his second ATP Challenger title of the season with a fluent 6-3, 6-3 win over Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki in the Bengaluru Open final in the city on Sunday. Organised by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA), the Bengaluru Open is an ATP Challenger 125 tournament.

Vindication for Varun in Dubai

Mystery spinner takes five-fer as India defeat Kiwis to set up semifinal clash against Oz

GOMESH S @ Chennai

VARUN Chakravarthy will remember what happened on November 5, 2021 at the Dubai International Stadium. Fast-tracked into the Indian team, Varun had played all three matches in the 2021 T20 World Cup, but as they faced an early exit, the spinner was also dropped from the set-up.

About 1,213 days on, Varun was back at the same venue, playing in an ICC event for India. This time, however, he was not the villain. Instead, Varun rose to the occasion and became the hero, taking a five-wicket haul — his first in the format — as India beat New Zealand by 44 runs to finish on top of Group A. They will play Australia in the first semifinal at the same venue on Tuesday.

While it might seem like a straightforward comeback story, there is more to it. In fact, Varun was not even in the preliminary Champions Trophy squad India had named in January.

Varun — while going back to the drawing table after being dropped in 2021, taking his time working on his craft — slowly made his mark yet again in the shortest format. And he persisted and showed consistency, especially for Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League, playing a crucial part in the title win last year. Soon, a comeback in the T20I format followed, but the ODI debut didn't happen. If there was a chance of him going to Dubai for the CT, the ideal scenario at the time was to have him in the squad for the three ODIs against England at home. However, he was named only in the T20I side.

India's spinner Varun Chakravarthy (2nd from right) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Will Young in Dubai on Sunday | PTI

Varun had been one of the most consistent spinners in the Vijay Hazare Trophy over the past couple of years, finishing second on the wickets tally on both occasions. Truth be told, he was on the radar of the selectors as they were at the venue watching him go about his business. And yet, when he was not named in the ODI squad against England, it seemed like Varun had to wait for his chance.

What did he do? Ran through England in every chance he got in the T20I series. So much so that he was added for the three ODIs at the last minute. With Varun, the question was never about his skills or ability to take wickets, but about how he copes with the strain of the 50-over format at the highest level.

The moment Varun showed that he could hold his own, adding to the fact that India were playing on slowish surfaces in Dubai, it was a no-brainer to add him to the Champions Trophy squad. Even then, getting a game was not straightforward. This is a team that already fields Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel in the playing XI regularly. Unless one gets injured/rested or India decides to go with four spinners, Varun was not going to play.

And so he patiently waited not wasting most of his tricks in the nets. It is something captain Rohit Sharma spoke about ahead of the tournament. "If he's got a certain weapon that he wants to just put it out there when it actually matters, I'm more than happy if he wants to do that. But he's got something different which is why he is here with us – whatever I have seen of him in the past 8-9 months, has been extremely impressive. So that is why we wanted to bring him here and see what he has," Sharma said at the time.

When the time came, Varun did just that. He started by beating the defences of Will Young and then even as New Zealand tried to build a partnership, Varun persisted. The reward came when he trapped Glenn Phillips and Michael Bracewell one after another. By the time he was done (5/42), Varun had secured India a dominating win against their nemesis at global events.

While it was his first ODI at an ICC event, Varun has shown enough for India to retain him on the Dubai pitches in the knockouts. And come the semifinal against Australia on Tuesday, Sharma would be hoping that Varun would use the intended weapon to get them across the line.

Brief scores: India 249/9 in 50 ovs (Iyer 79, Axar 42, Hardik 45; Henry 5/42) **bt** New Zealand 205 in 45.3 ovs(Williamson 81; Chakravarthy 5/42, Kuldeep 2/56).

Semifinal line-up

March 4: India vs Australia, Dubai

March 5: South Africa vs New Zealand, Lahore

Vidarbha players and support staff celebrate their third Ranji Trophy triumph at the VCA Stadium, Nagpur on Sunday | PTI

Tours in monsoon, match practice: Vidarbha's mantra

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

SOON after Vidarbha lost the Ranji Trophy final to domestic heavyweights Mumbai on March 14 last year, all stakeholders including coaches and management felt the need to chalk out strategies for the upcoming season. A lot was discussed during a meeting after that loss including the areas where the team needed to work on, roping in youngsters and giving them enough match practice ahead of the 2024-25 season.

In their bid to begin early, the Vidarbha Cricket Association zeroed down on probables for both red and white ball competitions in June and July last year. Monsoon remained an issue for this planned early start as the region receives heavy rain during that season. So it was decided to travel to places where rain could not play spoilsport and hence began the tour of Solapur in Maharashtra in July followed by a trip to Puducherry the next month and participation in the KSCA tournament. Amid all this, the players also had sessions with a mental trainer and sports psychologist to have that mental toughness during the close contests.

All those efforts put in around the year eventually bore fruit as Vidarbha overcame Kerala by virtue of a 37-run first-innings lead in Nagpur to lift the Ranji Trophy on Sunday.

"It all started soon after we lost the Ranji final last year," Usman Ghani, Vidarbha head coach told this daily. "The VCA provided all resources to make sure the team has an edge over their rivals when the season begins," Ghani added. And they really had the edge as they demolished the field winning six out of seven league matches, beating their opponents comprehensively in the quarterfinal (Tamil Nadu) and semifinal (Mumbai) before the ultimate glory in the final.

"The message was clear: dominate the proceedings. The players were confident as irrespective of their experience, they all had prepared well thanks to days' matches we played in Solapur, Puducherry and KSCA tournament. We should have won the Vijay Hazare tournament but lost the final to Karnataka," opined the coach.

Vidarbha had won the Ranji title in 2017-18 and 2018-19 and were a force to reckon with in domestic cricket even if they didn't win the premier tournament. It was in the same period the VCA decided to hire services of mental trainers and sports psychologists. "Amber Arondekar, a corporate trainer and Dr Swaroop Savanur, a renowned sports psychologist from Pune, worked with all Vidarbha teams from time to time. The former was with the senior men's team till last year while Dr Savanur has been working with the women's team and junior boys. It definitely helped the players as the sessions made them mentally tough. They learnt how to be positive in difficult situations and also inculcated self-belief in them. They also learnt how to be ruthless and dominating irrespective of their opponents. Overall we played fearless cricket during the whole season."

Yash Rathod finished as the leading run-scorer of the tournament with 960 runs from 18 innings at an average of 53.33. Similarly, the young left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey, who created history by taking the most wickets in a Ranji season (69), led the bowling chart. He also scored 476 runs making him the Player of the Tournament.

Brief scores: Vidarbha 379 & 375/9 in 143.5 ovs (Danish Malewar 73, Karun Nair 135, Darshan Nalkhande 51 n.o; Aditya Sarwate 4/96) drew with Kerala 342. Vidarbha won by virtue of the first innings lead.

VCA ANNOUNCES CASH AWARDS

The VCA announced a cash reward of ₹3 crore for the team. The VCA also felicitated Akshay Wakhare on his retirement. "The Vidarbha Cricket Association announced a cash award of ₹3 crore to the victorious Vidarbha team (players only)," the VCA said in a release. Dubey was awarded ₹25 lakh while Karun Nair (863 runs) and Rathod were awarded ₹10 lakh each. Besides, the VCA announced ₹15 lakhs for head coach Usman Ghani; ₹5 lakhs each to assistant coach (Atul Ranade), physio (Dr Nitin Khurana), S&C coach (Yuvraj Singh Dasondhi) & video analyst (Amit Manikrao); ₹2 lakhs each to manager (Jitendra Darbha), side-arm specialist (Yash Thorat) & masseur (Rajsingh Chandel).

The players were confident as irrespective of their experience, they all had prepared well thanks to days' matches we played in Solapur, Puducherry and KSCA tournament.

— Usman Ghani, VCA head coach

Bengaluru FC and East Bengal FC players in action during their ISL match | ISL

BFC end East Bengal's playoffs aspirations

AGENCIES @ Kolkata

SUNIL Chhetri's late equaliser for Bengaluru FC ended East Bengal FC's playoffs aspirations after a 1-1 draw in the Indian Super League here on Sunday.

The Blues held an overwhelming 67.9% of the possession, but needed the added time of the second half to grab a point from the fixture, ending East Bengal FC's playoff charge.

The Red and Gold Brigade, placed eighth, have 28 points from 23 games now, and could get to a maximum of 31 with one game remaining, which would still fall short of the currently sixth-placed NorthEast United FC (32).

East Bengal FC made a statement start with some telling moves that sparked a livewire inside the Bengaluru FC defensive third.

They particularly found openings on the right side of the Blues' backline, with Naorem Mahesh Singh embarking on an industrious run inside the 18-yard area before squaring the ball for Dimitrios Diamantakos.

The striker dazzled with his impressive footwork and launched a thunderous effort on target that was saved at the centre of the goal by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. That did not deter the East Bengal FC frontline, as they kept exploring dynamic ways to break their way through to get the lead.

The moment came through Saul Crespo, who was determined to find his footing within the penalty area. Saul momentarily lost balance though, but laid a short pass for Raphael Messi Bouli still. Messi Bouli cut in from the right, and shot from the centre of the box into the bottom left corner in the 11th minute, as Sandhu could not get his hands to the end of the shot.

EXPRESS READ

'Dream' Thai MotoGP win for Marquez

BURIRAM: Six-time world champion Marc Marquez used all his experience to fight back from a mid-race wobble to outduel his brother Alex Marquez for a "dream" win in Sunday's season-opening Thai MotoGP. It completed a dominant debut for his new factory Ducati team, with pole-sitter Marquez having romped to victory in Saturday's sprint at the Buriram Circuit for a maximum 37 championship points.

Prague Masters: Pragg joins Aravindh in lead

PRAGUE: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa scored his second victory on the trot, outwitting Vincent Keymer of Germany to join compatriot Aravindh Chithambaram at the top on three points after the end of the fourth round of the Prague Masters here. Aravindh survived some initial hiccups before signing peace with Sam Shankland of the United States.

Mexico Open: Maiden ATP title for Machac

ACAPULCO: Tomas Machac captured his first ATP title on Saturday, beating Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 7-6 (6), 6-2 to win the Mexico Open in Acapulco. Machac, the eighth seed who was ranked just 65th in the world a year ago and came into the week ranked 25th, is projected to make his top 20 debut when the new rankings are released on Monday.

Shuttler Yeo captures German Open crown

CHENNAI: World No 13 Yeo Jia Min of Singapore captured the women's singles title of the German Open, a BWF World Tour Super 300 event, on Sunday. Yeo, who had reached the quarterfinals of India Open earlier this year, beat Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Linh 21-16, 21-17 to bag her first tile of the season.

Rifle head coach Deepali 'excited' and hopeful of good season

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

SHOOTING was one of the very few sports that helped India capture the coveted Olympic medals during the 2024 Paris Games. After some period of relaxation, the shooters have been looking to recalibrate and gradually find their zone ahead of competitions ahead. There were some notable scores during the national trials that were conducted recently and now, the shooters are set for a national camp ahead of their first international competition this year. It's a phase that national rifle coach, Deepali Deshpande, is excited about. "This is the first year in the new Olympic cycle. This time we have a very strong bench strength. It is a very interesting situation right now. We have to maintain it for the next three, four years now," she noted.

More shooters to get chance

With rich talent pool in place, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), the governing body of the sport in the country, and the coaches are looking to ensure that more shooters can get the platform to display their talents. "More shooters will be getting exposure tours this time. It won't be just No 1, 2 and 3 ranked shooters. The last Olympic cycle was very short, so we need to plan well. This year will be more about training and preparing teams and assessing the shooters. There are many established shooters who have been around for a long but there are some new faces in the squad and we need to check their performances at the international level," the Dronacharya Awardee said.

National camp from March 14

During the upcoming national squad camp, which is expected to be held from March 14 in New Delhi, as many as eight shooters (at least) are expected to be part of it. Following the camp, the shooters (all disciplines), who have been selected based on the rankings, will depart for Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Lima (Peru) for two World Cups. The first batch of shooters are expected to leave by March 25 and the second batch are scheduled to leave on March 29.

"These are new ranges. We don't know what kind of targets they'll have. Generally, all new ranges tend to be windy. The Peru range is windy I suppose and I have no idea about Argentina. Learning how to adapt to different demands is very important for the shooters," Deepali noted.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Barcelona thrash 10-man Real Sociedad to reclaim top spot in La Liga

AGENCIES @ Barcelona

BARCELONA secured a comfortable 4-0 win over Real Sociedad on Sunday to move back top of La Liga.

Aritz Elustondo's early red card gave Hansi Flick's side a comfortable afternoon with Gerard Martin, Marc Casado, Ronald Araujo and Robert Lewandowskion the scoresheet. Atletico Madrid beat Athletic Bilbao on Saturday to temporarily knock the Catalans from their perch, while Real Madrid, third, lost at Real Betis. Flick was able to rotate his side a little ahead of the Champions League last 16 visit to face Benfica on Wednesday. "I'm very happy for our performance and it was important to win and go back to being leaders," Araujo told Movistar. "I'm happy for the good work we did and going first again."

Since recovering from a bad knee injury, Araujo has been unable to reclaim a regular starting spot in defence. "I came back from a long term injury, I'm calm and going step by step, I believe in myself and my characteristics, and I am happy to help," said Araujo. "I think it is important to have a competitive team to win titles, not just 11 players but a good bench too." Real Sociedad, ninth, threatened in the opening stages but fell foul of Barcelona's offside trap, with Sergio Gomez's strike ruled out. At the other end Barcelona playmaker Pedri Gonzalez came close when he pressed La Real goalkeeper Alex Remiro and deflected his attempted clearance just over and onto the roof of the net. The game swung Barcelona's way when Elustondo was sent off in the 17th minute for pulling down Dani Olmo, who was running through on goal. The hosts took the lead after 25 minutes when Olmo chipped the ball across for Martin to fire home the first goal of his career.

Barcelona's Ronald Federico Araujo da Silva (R) celebrates with teammates | AFP

Four minutes later, Barca had their second, with Olmo involved again, this time his wayward shot deflected home by team-mate Casado. The enterprising Lamine Yamal teed up Pedri but Remiro saved his shot from the edge of the box as Barca dominated. Pedri came close again after the break with an effort from range which bounced back off the crossbar, shortly before Araujo nabbed the third. Lewandowski cleverly converted Barcelona's fourth, prodding home Araujo's low drive from distance.

The 36-year-old leads the league with 21 goals in 25 appearances.

IIT MADRAS UNPLUGGED: BEYOND RANKINGS, INTO REAL LIFE!

From secret hangouts to groundbreaking research, untold campus tales to fun student awards — get an insider's look at what makes IIT Madras, with Saumya Solanki

fun time

Iconic annual events & traditions

SHAASTRA: WHERE TECHNOLOGY MEETS EXCELLENCE

Held in the first week of January, Shaastra is IIT Madras' annual technical festival, a dynamic hub of innovation and engineering excellence. Launched in 2000, it was the world's first student-run event to receive ISO 9001 certification. Over four days and nights, Shaastra hosts intense competitions, hackathons, and hands-on workshops, covering everything from robotics to Artificial Intelligence (AI). Signature events like RoboWars, BrandWars, Fire & Ice, and Shaastra Junior Quiz test technical prowess, while the Spotlight Lecture Series brings global pioneers in science and technology to share their insights. The Research Expo and Shaastra Solutions bridge the gap between academia and industry.

SAARANG: A CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Tracing its roots to the legendary Mardi Gras, Saarang is among India's largest cultural festivals, attracting over 50,000 attendees annually. This five-day spectacle features electrifying concerts, theatre arts, and unique events like Just-A-Minute, Decibels, and Pot Pourri. From legendary classical maestros like M Balamuralikrishna to international rock bands like Opeth and Skidrow, Saarang's professional shows promise an unforgettable experience. With a diverse mix of music, dance, and creativity, Saarang continues to uphold its legacy as the beating heart of IIT Madras' cultural scene.

Alumni spotlight

The legacy of IIT Madras

From pioneering tech start-ups to steering national policy, IIT Madras alumni continue to shape industries and inspire generations. Meet the minds behind the impact!

PROF SUBRA SURESH
1977: BTech - Mechanical Engineering
Distinguished Alumnus Awardee, 1997; Professor @ MIT

S GOPALA KRISHNAN
1977: MSc - Physics &
1979: MTech - Computer Science
Distinguished Alumnus Awardee, 1998
Retired Dy Managing Director @ Infosys

DR GURURAJ DESHPANDE
1973: BTech - Electrical Engineering
Distinguished Alumnus Awardee - 1998
Chairman @ Sycamore Networks, US;

V PREM WATSA
1971 - BTech - Chemical Engineering
Distinguished Alumnus Awardee, 1999
Hamblin Watsa Investment Counsel, Ontario, Canada

DR GIRIJA VAIDYANATHAN
1981: MSc - Physics &
2011: PhD - Humanities and Social Sciences
Distinguished Alumna Awardee, 2020
Chief Secretary, (Retd) Government of Tamil Nadu

DR KRISHNA CHIVUKULA
1970: MTech - Aerospace Engineering
Distinguished Alumnus Awardee, 2015
Chairman of INDO MIM Tec

Prof V Kamakoti, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, talks to Karthikeya S about the institute's strides in AI & emerging tech, the IIT Madras Edge, driving innovation and competition with other IITs

"We are guided by the mantra IIT-M for All"

THE Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) is an educational institution that needs no introduction. With a consistent No 1 rank in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, international acclaim, iconic start-ups, inspiring technological innovations, and notable alumni, the institution has become synonymous with Indian excellence.

What gives IIT Madras this edge among IITs? Prof V Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras, weighs in. Excerpts:

● News about start-ups founded by former students of IIT Madras or those incubated at IIT Madras regularly hit the headlines. Tell us what it takes to harbour such innovation consistently.
What we have at IIT Madras are dedicated programmes and pathways that nurture entrepreneurship. We have multiple entrepreneurial courses and even a dedicated Masters of Science programme in Entrepreneurship. In addition, we have our E-Cell and Centre of Innovation too.

IIT Madras is always aligned with national priorities. For example, we are coordinating the Swayam, and Swayam Plus platforms which help more than 1.4 million students

Prof V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras

● IIT Madras' endevaours in AI and Data Science are no secret. In your opinion, what is the future of teaching, vis-à-vis AI?
Today, we are witnessing an increase in the scale of operations for AI. Let's take IITs, for example. When I appeared for the JEE (Joint Entrance Exam), there were 12,000 aspirants other than me. Today, we have 1.9 million aspiring IITians.

The question is, how do we use AI to make personalised learning possible? This is going to be the greatest contribution of AI in education.

● Professors of IIT Madras are distinguished and recognised all over the world. What does the institute do to ensure or encourage them to stay in touch with the academic needs of students and the industry needs of corporates?
Teachers at IIT Madras remain in touch with their students even after graduation. I am in touch with all my PhD students. For many of us, there is only an introduction to IIT; there is no goodbye. We also have a vibrant alumni association, with whom there is constant engagement.

● IIT Madras - IIT Bombay - IIT Delhi — these three are often viewed as the top IITs. Your comment on this perceived competition.
We don't see this as a competition and have a very healthy relationship with each other. Each IIT has its own culture, strengths and weaknesses, all working together under a single entity of "Brand IIT".

● Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see IIT Madras playing towards the same vision?
There is no doubt that we will become Viksit Bharat by 2050, and a technology superpower. In this superpower, I would like to see IIT Madras to contribute several great industry leaders who show India as a very important nation for innovation, product development and prosperity in the world.

By 2050, I will have turned 83 years old... I would like to see our alumni come to greet me in 10 helicopters and 80 limousines on my 80th birthday.

Fun Awards: Highlights of life on campus

IIT Madras isn't just about academics — it's a world of its own, packed with quirky traditions, secret spots, and eateries that satiate late-night cravings. So, here we present the Fun Awards

Best hangout spot
Himalaya Lawn

Best time to be on campus
January, which is the fest season

Most competitive club/society
E-Cell

Best canteen dish/best canteen on the campus
Zaitoon restaurant (spicy barbeque and alfaham)

Rumours & superstition
Spotting a white buck on a quiz day fetches you an 'S' grade

Favourite library spot
Ajanta Reading Hall

Most Insta worthy spot on campus
New Academic Complex/ Manohar C Watsa Stadium

Unwritten rules
Introductory session for freshers

The midnight hunger saviour
Usha Café

Most mysterious spot
The spooky Aerowell, a bucket list place for freshers

Craziest campus tradition
Crazy Holi celebrations

Hidden gems on campus

Beyond its academic rigour and bustling campus life, IIT Madras has a few underrated spots that offer solitude, mystery, and intellectual exchange

1 Sri Durga Peeli Amman Temple — Tucked beside Delhi Avenue and accessible via a small bridge, this temple provides a peaceful escape from campus chaos. It's especially serene on non-festive days, making it a perfect retreat after a long day.

2 Madras Avenue — A long, quiet road that remains eerily silent at night. Known among students for its isolated feel, if Aerowell has its fair share of campus folklore, this stretch could give it stiff competition. Walking here alone or in a small group after dark is an experience in itself, say students.

3 CLT Lawns — Often overlooked despite its central location, this open space near the Central Lecture Theatre (CLT) is a hidden hub for discussions. Whether it's late-night debates, informal study sessions, or just unwinding under the open sky, it remains a favourite among campus intellectuals.

major mark

If the walls could talk

Campus stories & historic events

THE MANY LIVES OF GAJENDRA CIRCLE

Gajendra Circle (GC), one of the structures that was built during the first phase of the campus' construction, has been more than just a roundabout — it has stood witness to change, a silent spectator of student life evolving through the years. Once a traffic junction, it transformed into a bustling hub. It has seen impromptu celebrations, and even protests that shaped the campus culture. But we ask, will the mystery of the Third Elephant ever be solved?

THE NIGHT THE CAMPUS STOOD STILL

In 2015, the sudden de-recognition of the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle (APSC) sent shockwaves across the campus. The student-run group, known for discussions on caste and social justice, was accused of spreading 'hatred,' sparking protests far beyond IIT Madras. With national attention mounting, the administration reinstated APSC, marking a turning point in campus activism.

THE GREEN BATTLE: WHEN NATURE AND PROGRESS CLASHED

IIT Madras' campus is a rare ecosystem where academics and nature coexist, with blackbucks wandering near hostels and dense greenery lining its roads. But in the 2000s, campus expansion threatened this balance, as marked trees and construction sites alarmed students. Soon, sustainability became a campus-wide concern. The administration pledged to integrate eco-friendly policies.

Across IIT Madras, walls don't just hold up buildings — they hold memories. And if they could talk, their stories would be worth listening to

Hub for deep-tech start-ups & innovation: A talk with Prof Prabhu Rajagopal

● What makes IIT Madras' start-up ecosystem unique?
IIT Madras has built a robust start-up ecosystem through structured support. It houses the Center for Innovation for student-led projects, a pre-incubator, and 16 nationally recognised centres of excellence in AI, biotech, and more.

Key organisations like the Gopalakrishnan and Deshpande Centers help researchers transition into entrepreneurs. The IIT Madras

Incubation Cell and specialised incubators focusing on rural tech, cyber-physical, med-tech, bio-tech and so on, provide mentorship, funding, and industry connections.

Over 425 start-ups operate within the incubation cell, with 120 pre start-ups in pre-incubation. The institute also offers a Master's in Entrepreneurship to bridge research and commercialisation.

● What are some standout innovations from IIT Madras?
IIT Madras has produced groundbreaking start-ups. Agnikul is developing the world's first 3D-printed rocket, while The ePlane Company is creating battery-operated personal drones, recently securing a $1 billion order for medical applications. Solinas is tackling manual scavenging through robotics, and Mindgrove is India's first chip design start-up. AI companies like Plenome are developing AI and blockchain for the healthcare segment.

Prof Prabhu Rajagopal, Advisor (Innovation and Entrepreneurship), IIT Madras

● Which start-ups from IIT Madras should we watch out for in 2026?
Emerging start-ups include Inbound Aerospace, developing space-based manufacturing capsules. Automagri is innovating AI-based automation for agriculture, while Ewebstore enables voice-based website creation, a no code kind of platform. BotForge Labs is advancing AI foundation models which uses visual language model for training humanoid robots, pushing robotics and automation boundaries.

● What factors make IIT Madras' incubation model unique?
IIT Madras excels through structured entrepreneurship, strong faculty involvement, and a deep research and Intellectual Property (IP) base and beyond.

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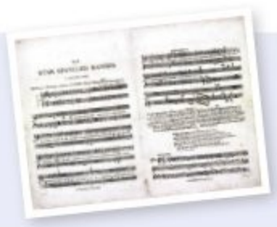


DAY'S DIARY

National anthem

The Star-Spangled Banner was officially adopted as the national anthem of the United States on this day in 1931

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

President Herbert Hoover signed a bill in 1931 and the anthem had been recognised for official use by the United States Navy in 1889 and by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916

THE LYRICIST

Francis Scott Key wrote the lyrics as a poem in 1814 during the British siege of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbour. Francis was a lawyer and a poet

POPULARITY

Francis's song gained popularity during the American Civil War, particularly for its emotional depiction of the national flag

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Within the MEG Military Officers' Mess compound is a 300-year-old Chinese bell that lies broken by the antics of a 19th-century sepoy

CRACK A DOODLE DOO

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

WHAT do a Ching dynasty emperor and Promenade Road have to do with each other? At first thought, nothing at all. But a strange set of events that started centuries ago have ended with a huge iron bell dedicated to Emperor Chien Lung (or Qianlong) to find a home in Bengaluru. The bell, approximately four feet tall and three feet wide, has Chinese inscriptions wishing for the well-being of the emperor and his empire like good harvests, regular seasons, and the consolidation of the emperor's power.

According to reports from the time, when rung, its sonorous clang could be heard all the way from Ulsoor to the Pete area surrounding Bangalore Fort. But with a huge crack running lengthwise along it, the bell has remained silent for over a century. The story behind this is rather peculiar. Without alarms to set on yet-to-be-invented smart phones, the bell had to be rung by a sepoy day and night every hour. But who wouldn't get bored of a job like this, especially on a rainy day? And that's exactly what happened. "It is said that on a rainy day, the sentry on duty, instead of going out in the rain to strike the bell, took a heavy ball (probably a cannonball) and threw it. This damaged the bell with a vertical crack and made it useless," says history researcher Arun Prasad.

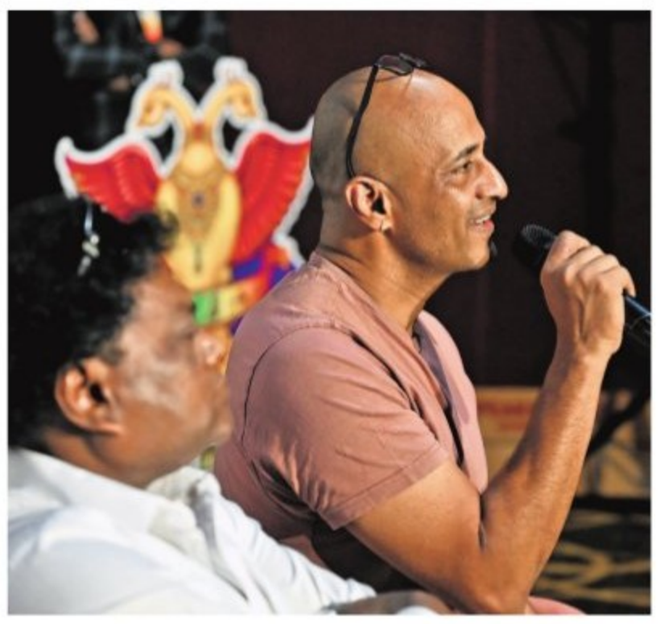
Nobody knows what happened to this sepoy, but by author and host of the podcast *History of Bangalore*, Ramjee Chandran's speculations, not much. He laughs, saying, "I doubt anything major happened to him. I don't think he would have been court martialled or anything like that. He may have gotten a scolding or made to squat and walk across the field," adding, "We don't know exactly what happened to him as there are no records."

How did the bell get to Bengaluru in the first place? The answer can be found in The Opium Wars, fought between the Chinese and the British for control over the money-minting opium trade, with the Madras Sappers sent to Nanking in East China. There, the bell caught the eye of a British soldier. "[Archaelogoist] BL Rice met a retired officer named Cribb who recounted that when the Sappers were sent to Nanking, Captain G Hall found the bell in a joss house on top of Nanking Hill. After the war, in 1842, the bell was brought by ship to Madras. It was later shifted to Bengaluru where it found utility," says Prasad.

The Chinese bell that hangs at the MEG Military Officers' Mess, Promenade Road | RAMJEE CHANDRAN

CONTESTED LORE

Records say that the bell was placed in front of the quarter guard's troop, the location of which is unknown, and an old picture shows the bell placed on the ground near Kempegowda Tower but whether it was there when it was damaged is contested. "It is said that after it was cracked, it was removed and placed on the ground. The question is if it was somewhere else or hung right there before it was placed on the ground. I don't think that a bell that heavy would have been transported all the way uphill to Kempegowda Tower after it was cracked because it's quite a climb. The only flaw is that its unlikely that there was a pile of cannon balls on top of Kempegowda Tower," says Chandran. Prasad too is unsure, saying, "The sepoy couldn't have thrown a heavy ball from the low level to the higher level."



Actor Kishore Kumar speaks at a press conference at BIFFes | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

The 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival, hosted at Orion Mall, catered to cinephiles and artistes from across the city

CINEMA GALORE

GAYATHRI M KURUP

CINEMA is an artform that transcends age, language, and borders. It is a site of passion that ignites creativity, storytelling, and the human experience. More than just entertainment, cinema has long been a bridge between cultures, uniting people through powerful narratives that make them think, learn, and question the world around us.

The 16th Bangalore International Film Festival (BIFFes), themed Universal Peace in Diversity, continues this tradition, bringing together filmmakers, cinephiles, and industry professionals to celebrate cinema. With each iteration, the festival has offered a diverse selection of films that challenge perspectives, spark conversations, and inspire audiences. Over the years, BIFFes has grown into one of India's most prestigious film festivals, with this edition screening over 200 films from more than 60 countries across 13 screens, drawing over 12,000 delegates. The festival kicked off with a screening of the much-anticipated *Pyre* by Vinod Kapri, and included a mix of variety in terms of language and country of origin. The festival also includes a retrospective on legendary filmmaker Shyam Benegal, among others.

As actor and festival ambassador Kishore Kumar puts it, "We get to showcase and we get to watch films from all over the world. The spirit of this festival is fraternity – getting everyone together, crossing all boundaries." N Vidyashankar, founder and artistic director at BIFFes adds, "The intention of film festivals is to bring to the audience different experiences of cinema. Most of these films are showing their countries, the people living in those country, and the existential crises of those people."

BIFFes also brings actors and audiences together for deeper engagement, film analysis, and interpretation. Actor Hema Chaudhary shares, "I attend all the film festivals. I love this because film and acting are my passion. It is very nicely organised in a very short period of time." Long-time attendee Hari Krishna emphasises the festival's role in showcasing different cultures and filmmaking styles; "I have been on stage for a long time as an artist. I am interested in art. I want to see various countries' films, how their cultures are, and their methods of filmmaking, editing, camera work, and direction. I want to observe; I want to see if the theme is alien or of their own country," he says.

The festival also highlights the challenges faced by young filmmakers. Festivalgoer Kiran expresses, "Here we see that the best award-winning movies are from other countries. There are too many limitations in our countries, including budget. Festivals like this that should be hosted often to remind people about youngsters like us who are trying bring art into cinema."

In addition to screenings, BIFFes hosts seminars, workshops, and masterclasses to explore various aspects of cinema. With competitive categories for Asian, Indian, and Kannada cinema and a strong focus on learning and discussion, BIFFes 2025 is set to be a window to everyone who has fallen in love or is falling in love with cinema.

Amidst the recent price hike announcement from Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association (BBHA) on coffee, we ask coffee house owners in the city how this has affected them and consumer needs

WHAT'S BREWING HERE?

ANJALI RAM

ONE steam-filled cup of filter coffee in the morning, a quick coffee break amidst work pressure to recharge, and a cold coffee to beat the afternoon heat – for many Bengalureans, this is what a typical day looks like. For them, this isn't a mere habit, but a ritual that gets them through the marathon of life. But recently, global challenges, particularly in major coffee-growing nations like Brazil and Vietnam, have left Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association (BBHA) to decide on a hike on coffee prices by 10-15 per cent, leaving Bengaluru's coffee enthusiasts and coffee houses on edge.

Why the hike?

Brazil's coffee production is a major determinant of the prices. In Hatti Kappi's owner, US Mahendar's words, "In the last three years, we have seen a steep increase. As far as Indian coffee is concerned, we grow around four lakh tonne of coffee; still, we have to follow the price lens which Brazil defines." Mahendar, who is involved in both retail and farming, looks at this situation from multiple angles. "As a grower, it's good news but we have a diverse crowd – those who come in rickshaws as well as those who come in luxury cars, and we cater to all."

The dilemma

Prashanth Raj, one of the managing directors of IDC, shares his concern, stating, "The first price hike was ₹100 per kg. Now it's another ₹100. Also, prices for dairy products are going to be increased and Bengalureans usually prefer milk coffee. Currently, we are absorbing all the extra expenses, but we might have to raise prices by April if costs continue to rise." This concern is echoed across many coffee shop businesses, as they face similar pressures, leaving them in a dilemma. Nandan Thogarihunkal, owner of Hunkal, a single-estate coffee company, looks at the 10-20 per cent increase as not a major concern, but if this continues, he believes it will fall heavily on the customers' pocket. "Not many companies have increased the prices yet. Only when we do that, will we get to know how exactly the consumers behave on this front. But right now, there will be a little loss in business, no doubt, because of the sudden price rise," he says. Another main impact Raj foresees is a reduction in customer visits to coffee shops. Keeping the budget-sensitive customers in mind, he notes, "Every time people come out to have a cup of coffee, they have a budget in mind that they don't want to cross. With coffee, they might want to have snacks. But now they might cut the snacks but not the coffee, as their day is incomplete without it."

A silver lining?

On the brighter side, Mahendar notes how this can be seen as a great opportunity for India to grow in terms of coffee. "Gen Zs and millennials are buying coffee as a statement today. For the coffee industry it's good news," he says. However, NR Vinayanand, owner of Bhavani Koffee, hopes for customers to choose alternative options. "An 80:20 ratio of coffee and chicory or similar ratios like 70:30, 60:40 and 53:47, respectively, could act as replacements, and will have prices a bit lesser compared to pure coffee. I don't see them switching to other drinks," says Vinayanand, adding, "They may try other drinks for a couple of days but eventually they will return to coffee."

As a grower, it's good news, but we have a diverse crowd; those who come in rickshas and those who come in luxury cars, and we cater to all

US Mahendar, owner, Hatti Kappi

CITY READS

Campaign promotes road safety

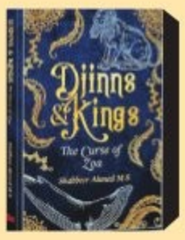
The Bengaluru Transport Department, in collaboration with the Karnataka State Police and Bengaluru Traffic Police, organised Safe-A-Thon – a Walk-Run-Cycle event – on March 1 at Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Sampangi Rama Nagar. The event was attended by over 12,000 enthusiasts where Minister of Road Transport, Ramalinga Reddy, suggested that accidents could be significantly reduced by creating awareness about road safety measurements. International athlete Arjun Devaiah said, "Mobile phones are increasing accidents and disasters. We should not be enslaved to mobile phones. If there are emergency calls, the vehicle should be safely stopped on the side of the road."

Institute celebrates AI Innovation Day

AI Innovation Day was celebrated on February 27 at Sambhram Institute of Technology, Vidyaranyapura by the department of computer science and engineering in association with Microsoft, OSCode Community, ID8NXT and Bhashini, to highlight the importance of artificial intelligence in the development of society. A four-hour ideathon was conducted as a part of the event which was joined by over 60 teams of participants from various colleges across Karnataka. The chief guests for the event included Lakshit Pant, manager of MLSA at Microsoft, Parul Chaddha, software engineer at Flipkart, Naman Sinha, lead software engineer at ZEISS Group and Lalit Rawat, cloud solution architect at PwC Acceleration Centers.

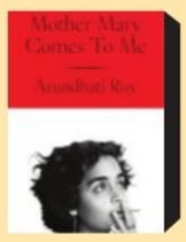
ANNUAL
SALE
SILK SAREES I SILK FABRICS I UNSTITCHED SUIT PCS
DUPATTAS I KURTIS I KURTAS FOR MEN
SABOO
COLLECTIONS
Trinity Circle, M G Road, Bangalore-560 001
Tel: 2558-5519, 2559-7888 WhatsApp: 9804039039
Store Timings: 10:30 to 8:00pm

BOOK NOOK



Djinns & Kings: The Curse of Zoa
by MS Shabbeer Ahmed

This book dives into a thrilling fantasy adventure about Rhuzbeh's quest to lift a curse from the djinn city of Afra-Zun, exploring the complexities of love, heroism, and power.



Mother Mary Comes to Me
by Arundhati Roy

A memoir by Arundhati Roy, the book is a deeply personal and inspiring account of her life, shaped by her complex relationship with her mother.

The Legend Of Meneka
by Kritika H Rao

A mythological fantasy novel that retells a Hindu myth where celestial dancer Meneka is sent to seduce sage Kaushika to disrupt his meditation but unexpectedly falls in love.

Bring it on: The Incredible Story Of My Life
by Deepa Malik

In this remarkable autobiography, Deepa Malik shares her journey of overcoming spinal tumours and paralysis to achieve success and become India's first paralympic medalist.

LIGHT ON HER FEET

Actor Vaani Kapoor dances at the Women's Premier League match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Delhi Capitals on Saturday, the last WPL match to be held at M Chinnaswamy Stadium this year | ALLEN EGENUS E J

QUICKFIX

CHICKEN RINGS

INGREDIENTS

- **Chicken breast (minced):** 500 g
- **Salt and black pepper:** 1 tsp each
- **Breadcrumbs (for coating):** 1 cup
- **Egg:** 1
- **Oil for frying**

METHOD

- Mix minced chicken, salt, black pepper, and egg in a bowl until well combined.
- Take a portion of the mixture, roll it into a ball, flatten it, and make a hole in the middle to form a ring.
- Coat rings with breadcrumbs for a crispy texture.
- Heat oil in a pan and fry the rings until golden brown and cooked through (about 3-5 minutes per side).
- Serve hot with your favorite dip.

Contributed by **Juleena Justin,** Chengannur

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My dog, a 7-year-old indie female, is always yawning. Could it be lethargy, nervousness, or a reaction to the transition from winter to summer, which often induces drowsiness?

ASK AN XPERT

Yawning in dogs can occur for various reasons. It may simply indicate tiredness, especially if your dog isn't getting enough rest or exercise. However, frequent yawning can also be a sign of anxiety or stress, particularly in unfamiliar situations. The seasonal shift from winter to summer might also contribute to lethargy, as changes in temperature and daylight can affect your dog's energy levels. If the yawning is accompanied by other unusual symptoms, it is best to consult your vet to rule out any underlying health concerns.

FITBIT

ANANTASANA PADA LIFT VARIATION (SIDE RECLINING POSE LEG LIFT VARIATION)

This pose is a variation of the foundational pose, Anantasana (Side Reclining Leg Lift Pose). However, this is a transit pose to the base pose, Anantasana. It strengthens the upper back, neck, arms, shoulders, glutes, abdominal muscles, obliques, and quadriceps, improving overall core strength and stability. It also strengthens the outer thigh muscles (abductors), toning the legs. It demands awareness and focus on balance and stability. Holding the body in this posture daily improves mindfulness and reduces stress. This mind-body practice can boost confidence, promoting empowerment and self-esteem.

STEPS

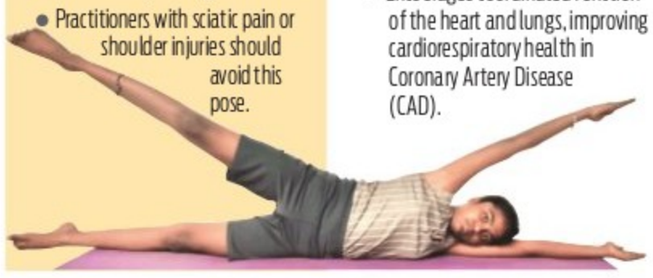
- Start lying in Easy Side Reclining Pose Variation on the left side. Place your right hand in front of the heart centre, helping balance the body on the left side. The fingers of the right hand should point towards the head.
- Inhale, lift your head, and form a pillow with your lower arm (left), comfortably placed under your head in Easy Reclining Pose Hand Floor. The palm supports the back of the head and the elbow is in line with the shoulder. Exhale completely here.
- Inhale, lift your right leg straight towards the sky, pressing the right palm on the ground. The foot is extended, with the toes pointing towards the sky. Focus on a point in front of you to maintain balance and stability. Keep the lifted leg straight and active at 90 degrees while maintaining the grounded leg straight.
- Stay here in Anantasana Pada Lift Variation for about six breaths or as per the body's comfort. Find balance by rooting down your left hip and maintaining a steady gaze at a fixed point.
- To release, exhale, lower the right hand and right leg, and realign in Sahaja Anantasana Variation.
- Relax in Constructive Rest Pose. Then counter the stretch on the other side (left), following the above instructions. As an alternative, students can follow the same practice in a flow – inhale, raise the leg; exhale, lower it down.

BENEFITS

- This variation enhances balance, strength, and flexibility.
- Stimulates the apana vayu (downward flow of energy), promoting the elimination of physical and emotional toxins.
- Can be included in Power, Hot, and Sculpt Yoga sequences.
- Counteracts the effects of prolonged sitting, improving body posture.
- Helps improve cardiovascular function.
- An excellent addition to yoga for athletes, runners, mountain climbers, or students engaged in active sports.
- Suitable for yoga for kids or teens, helping improve hip mobility.
- Supports the toning and strengthening of the pelvic floor muscles for postnatal recovery.
- Stretches and strengthens the muscles on the side of the torso.
- Enhances the mobility of the scapula and shoulder joint.
- Regular practice makes the hamstrings and calves supple and flexible, improving movement.
- Stretches the abdominal muscles, assisting in various balancing asanas.
- Improves circulation, induces tranquillity, and promotes mental relaxation, helping to overcome stress and tension.
- Stimulates the Sacral Chakra, encouraging a sense of desire, pleasure, and creativity in practitioners.
- Holding for a longer duration reduces weight from the hips and waist.
- Encourages coordinated function of the heart and lungs, improving cardiorespiratory health in Coronary Artery Disease (CAD).

LIMITATIONS

- Students with spondylitis, cervical issues, or a slipped disc should practise with caution.
- Those with spinal conditions such as scoliosis should practise only under guidance.
- Practitioners with sciatic pain or shoulder injuries should avoid this pose.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Free your mind

Explore your inner self through practical guidance by spiritualist Anil Kanthi on his 'Art of Nilness', here to help you look within yourself and free your mind.

WHEN: March 3, 8am
WHERE: Starbucks, Shanthala Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Clash of Clubs

The I-League clash between SC Bengaluru and Aizawl FC will set off sparks as the home team defends its turf. Fans can watch the teams vying for the trophy with skill, drama, and intensity.

WHEN: March 3, 4pm
WHERE: Bangalore Football Stadium, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: district.in

Comedy Night

Laugh out loud with a lineup of hilarious stand-up comics at this unique event. where adults can enjoy the humour while kids let loose at a trampoline park.

WHEN: March 3, 7pm **WHERE:** Sky Jumper Trampoline Park, Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: skyjumpertrampolinepark.com

Snow Party

Snow City is set to host various activities like zorbing, basketball, dancing, snow rafting, snow mountain climbing, fantasy snow castle making, and more. Engage in fun activities with friends and family in a white wonderland.

WHEN: March 3, 10am onwards
WHERE: Snow City, JC Nagar
CALL: 78295 50000

Creative Colours

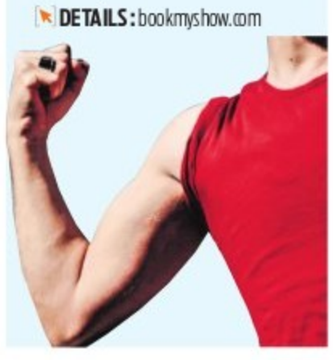
Enroll in this 2-hour workshop and learn the art of tie and dye with vibrant colours. Carry home your own designs on tote bags that will be provided at the venue!

WHEN: March 4, 12pm
WHERE: Story Zone, HSR Layout
CALL: 7349151504

Keep Fit

Train using the Landmine Training System to build your strength, stamina, power, endurance, and muscle growth. Improve your daily workout by learning to maximise your body's potential and incorporating rotational and explosive exercises.

WHEN: March 3, 6.30pm
WHERE: The Fit Ground, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Water Adventure

Experience the kayak life along with a guide to take you along the beautiful Kanva lake. Relax and see the sights while surrounded by nature.

WHEN: March 3, 8am
WHERE: The Triquetra (Aqua Escape), Kannamangala
CALL: 98864 21621

ARTCORNER

DEEP IN THOUGHT

Delhi-based artist Shubhendu Sarkar's self-portrait captures introspection, restlessness, and inner conflict through shadowy light and symbolic elements

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

SUMMER CAR CARE

HERE'S A COMPILATION OF BEST TIPS TO KEEP YOUR VEHICLE COOL AND IN TOP CONDITION THIS SUMMER

JUST as you need protection from the scorching summer heat, so does your car. All major car manufacturers issue advisories on summer car care. Here, we've compiled the best tips to keep your vehicle cool and in top condition.

■ **Summer accelerates ageing:** High temperatures speed up the ageing of various vehicle components. Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight further accelerates deterioration, affecting both cars and two-wheelers.

■ **Polish for protection:** Waxing and polishing, often considered a luxury, can be a summer saviour. Just as sunscreen shields our skin from harmful UV rays, a coat of wax polish protects the paint and underlying metal from harsh sunlight. Plastic panels, such as lower body cladding, require extra care. Regular plastic polishing helps maintain a fresh, new look.

■ **Check rubber components:** Rubber components deteriorate faster in summer. Cracks can lead to failure, so inspect and replace parts such as window channels before the season sets in. Damaged seals allow water leaks during car washes and rain, as well as dirt accumulation.

■ **Tyre care:** Tyres endure scorching road surfaces, and neglecting them can lead to blowouts, especially on highways. Heat worsens wear, creating microscopic cracks that may not be visible to the naked eye. Tyres have a lifespan of five years or approximately 40,000km for mid-size and compact cars. Ensure they are within this limit and maintain a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm.

■ **Maintain the right pressure:** Hot air expands, increasing tyre pressure as you drive over hot roads. If cracks exist, this can lead to blowouts. Overinflated tyres experience more stress in summer. Consider using nitrogen to maintain consistent pressure.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

■ **Check engine oil:** Regular servicing ensures proper oil levels. Heat degrades engine oil faster, which also accumulates debris from engine wear. Change oil periodically, as it loses protective properties over time. Proper lubrication extends engine life and prevents abnormal wear.

■ **Inspect belts and hoses:** Like other rubber components, belts and hoses age faster in hot, dry conditions. Check air-conditioning and fan belts for cracks. A squeaking noise at startup may indicate a hardened, ageing belt. The timing belt or chain has a manufacturer-specified replacement interval – adhere to it to avoid breakdowns.

■ **Coolant top-up:** The engine relies on both engine oil and coolant to regulate temperature. Check the coolant reservoir regularly to ensure it's within the optimal range. If low, top it up with distilled water to maintain proper circulation and cooling efficiency.

■ **Use car covers & sunshades:** Just as you use an umbrella for shade, protect your car. If you park your car outdoors for extended periods, a car cover shields the paint and metal from UV rays. Windshield and window sunshades prevent excessive interior heating when a full cover isn't used.

■ **Air conditioning check-up:** Just like home ACs, your car's air conditioning should be checked before summer to ensure peak performance during extreme heat.

■ **Cool down before driving:** A parked car's cabin becomes a heat chamber in summer. Before setting off, roll down the windows to let hot air escape and allow cooler ambient air to circulate.

■ **Stay hydrated**: Drivers need protection too! Always try to park in the shade, but if unavoidable, leave windows slightly open for ventilation. Use sunshades for windows and carry a flask or bottle of water. Keep an umbrella and a small towel in the car for added comfort.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NUGGETS

Motorcycle classes to be held on Women's Day

Royal Brothers, in partnership with Moto Business Service India is launching the 10th edition of its 'RB For Women' programme on the ocassion of International Women's Day on March 8. Held at Red Riders Go Karting grounds, Kodathi, from 7am to 10am, this initiative aims to equip 100 women with basic and advanced riding techniques with a focus on safety protocols in a secure environment under the guidance of professional trainers. Tickets are priced at ₹399. Open to participants between 18 to 60 years of age. For more details, call 96329 91922.

Heritage org hosts multisensory exhibition

The Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation has launched a multisensory experience capturing the work of Raja Ravi Varma at Gallery G, Lavelle Road. Open to visitors till May 1, it blends art and technology, offering an immersive exploration of one of India's most celebrated painters. Beginning with an abstract audio-visual presentation of excerpts from the diary of C Raja Raja Varma, the artist's younger brother and assistant, it provides an introduction to the artist's creative process and historical impact. Following this, visitors can choose between two interactive paths that use augmented reality to either explore his artistic achievements or his personal relationships and connection with the Travancore royals.

Doughnut chain introduces new flavour

Mad Over Donuts recently introduced the Viral Dubai Chocolate Donut, a flavour loved by netizens across the globe, to its outlets in Bengaluru. This limited edition dessert features a silky chocolate glaze and an indulgent pistachio kunafa paste filling topped with pistachio flakes. Tarak Bhattacharya, Executive Director and CEO of Mad Over Donuts, says "This doughnut is a celebration of rich flavours and textures – crafted fresh, made to order, and available exclusively in our stores."

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

DECLARATION OF NAME
I, **Sridhar Sundaresan Iyer,** (Aadhar No.8075 2659 7191 & PanCard No. BJIPS1831D)Aged62Yrs. R/o at No. 124, Aecs Layout 14th Cross, 1-A Main, Sanjay Nagar,Bangalore-560094 Declare that Sridhar Sundaresan Iyer and Sridhar Sundaresan and Sundaresan Sridhar **which refer to one and same person that is myself only.** Sworn vide Affidavit dated 5-02-2025 before the Magistrate at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SURYA KRISHNA M,** R/at # 174, 7th A Cross, Govindaraj Nagar, Nagarabhavi Main Road, Bengaluru - 79, have changed my name from **GOPI KRISHNA M** (Old Name) to **SURYA KRISHNA M** (New name) for all future purposes, vide Affidavit dated 11-02-2025, Sworn before Notary R.S. Vijay, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ADVAITHA** aged about 20 Years R/at Flat No.X-1403, Mantri webcity Hennur Main Road, Kothanur Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to **ADVAITHA JAYAKUMAR** vide affidavit dated: 1/3/2025 Before Notary **Mohammed Hussain.K** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RITESH BAID .** S/o. Ramawatar Baid, Age 45 years, Residing at No.6, 1st Cross, 2nd Phase, 3rd Main Road, BEML 5th Stage, Behind New Horizan School, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-98. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RITESH RAMAWATAR BAID TO RITESH BAID .** vide affidavit dated 24/02/2025 sworn before advocate & Notary S.R. ThulasiKrishna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAVI ANKUSH JAGTAP**, aged about 28 years, S/o. Mr. Ankush Jagtap, presently residing at Flat No. 309, 3rd Floor, Ranga Gokulam Apartment, Vijinapura, K R Puram, Bangalore-560016, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAVI JAGTAP** to **RAVI ANKUSH JAGTAP,** vide affidavit dated 01.03.2025, sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, S BALAJI SINGH, aged about 56 years, S/o Late. Shiva Singh K & Late. Balaji Bai, residing at No.79, 3rd Floor, 1st C Main Road, 3rd Cross, Chamundeshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560097, I am also known, called, recognized in the names of S BALAJI SINGH and BALAJI SINGH S, both this names refers to one and the same person i.e. myself only, vide affidavit dated 01/03/2025, Notary Register No.46 before Notary Mohammed Hussain K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAVINA KHANAPURI** D/o Bharamappa, and residing at Nidasoshi, Hukkeri, Belgaum, Karnataka - 591236, today at Bangalore, have changed my name from **RAVANA KHANAPURE** to **RAVINA KHANAPURI**, vide affidavit dated 1/3/2025 sworn to before V.Rajashekhara Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) JOSHNI,** Mother of NO.16122247Y, NK, SANDEEP, Residing at # 413, Garhi Sampla (35), Sampla, Rohtak (Dist), HARYANA (State), PIN: 124501, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) ROSHANI** And **DOB** from **06.05.1955** to **01.01.1953** Vide Affidavit Dated 24.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) V POOJA,** Spouse of NO.16123649H, L/HAV, K VINOD KUMAR, Residing at House NO.32-562, Balaji Street, Murakambattu (Vill & Post), Chittoor (Dist), ANDHRA PRADESH (State), PIN: 517127, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) K S POOJA** Vide Affidavit Dated 27.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SHAMSHAD BAGUM,** Daughter of NO.1303479, EX-HAV, LATE MOOSA BEG, Residing at House NO.E47, 2nd Cross, Chikkagollapa Layout Behind Sri Vijayalakshmi Hospital, Hennur Bande, Kalyananagar, Bengaluru 560043, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) SHAMSHAD BEGUM** Vide Affidavit Dated 27.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) JISHA SREERAJ,** Spouse of NO.15320260X, HAV, SREERAJ K, Residing at Biju Nivas, Kizhakkumuri (Post), Kakkodi (Via), Kozhikode (Dist), KERALA (State), PIN: 673611, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) NAIR JISHA UNNIKRISHNAN** Vide Affidavit Dated 19.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SHAIK IRFAN BASHA SHAIK**, residing at # 28/3, New 3 & 4 SKF Residency, 9th Cross, Umar Nagar, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHAIK IRFAN BASHA SHAIK** to **(NEW NAME) SHAIK IRFAN BASHA** vide affidavit dated 27.02.2025 sworn before Notary S.R.Nanjunda Swamy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAYA MUKUND,** D/o Nagaraj Mukunda, R/at No. 162/A, 8th B Main Road, Rajmahal Vilas Extension, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560 080 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MAYA MUKUNDA** to **MAYA MUKUND,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MAYA MUKUND** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **UMA MAHESHWARI .R,** W/o Venkatagiridhar .R, R/at No. 323, 6th Main, ITI Layout, Mallathahalli, Bangalore-560 056, have changed my name to **V. UMAMAHESHWARI,** vide affidavit dated 01/03/2025 before Notary **C.V. EARAPPA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VILAS H NYAMAGOUDAR, S/o Hanamant Nyamagoudar, R/at No.10, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Shivanagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010, hereby declare that have changed my name from **VILAS** to **VILAS H NYAMAGOUDAR.** Hereonwards I use my name as **VILAS H NYAMAGOUDAR** for all the documents like Passport, Aadhar card, Pan card and other documents. Vide affidavit dated: 17/12/2024, sworn before Notary Vanajakshi.R, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ROOPA M**, W/o. Sri. K.S. Arun, Aged 47 years, residing at # 45, Sriniketan, South End Road, Opp. to Asha Kiran Apartment, Tata Silk Form, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ROOPA ARUN** to **ROOPA M** vide affidavit dated 27.02.2025 sworn to before K.S. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AGNESSAJITHA BENZ PAUL, W/o Benz Paul Paulraj, aged about 45 years, Residing at M06, Harsha Green Wood Apartments, 5th Main, 6th Cross, Next to BGF1 Club, Malleshpalya, Bangalore North, New Thippasandra, Bangalore -560075 have changed my name to AGNES SAJITHA BENZ vide affidavit dated: 01.03.2025 before Advocate and Notary Y.R. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ms. S ANJALI SHANKER D/o. S. SURESH BABU Aged about 23 Years Residing at No. 45, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Babanagar, IAF Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560063, have changed my name from **S ANJALI SHANKER** to **ANJALI SHANKAR,** vide affidavit dated 1/3/2025 sworn to before S.R.Ravikumar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Service NO JC- 441537F, SUB DHANDAPANI P, Residing at House NO 3/211, Muppadhavatti (vill), Kaspa / Arcot (post), Arcot (TK), Vellore (Dist), TAMIL NADU (state), PIN: 632503, Have Changed My Daughter **(OLD NAME) JEEVITHA** to **(NEW NAME) D JEEVITHA,** Vide Affidavit Dated 25.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary S.I.BALAGURU BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SARALA P**, W/o Srinivasa N, resident of No.398, 5th Main Road, Bhovi Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079 Karnataka, India have changed my name from **SARALA P** to **SARALA**, vide affidavit dated **01-03-2025** sworn before notary H.G Padmanabha Rao, Reg. No.12464, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARANI SRI,** D/o Late Shri Ramarao Venugopal Naidu, age 47 years, R/at No.06, Swasik Tower, 10th Main, Kurubarahalli, J C Nagar, Bangalore-560 086 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANJALI R NAIDU** to **BHARANI SRI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **BHARANI SRI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-02-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRADEEP KUMAR A.S.,** S/o **Savalegowda @ Dyavegowda** R/at No.379, 2nd Cross, 7th Main Road, Lakshmidevinagar, Near RVS School, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru- 560096 hereby declare that my names **PRADEEP KUMAR A.S** and **PRADEEP A.S** are one and the same names which belongs to me itself only vide affidavit dated: 29/1/2025 Before Notary **D.G.Shanthappa** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **S. KAMALAVENI**, age 47 years, R/a No. B-402, Jalavayu Heights, AFNHB, HMT Main Road, Next to Brigade Rubix, Jalahalli, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru North-560 022, Karnataka India do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **ABHINAV KARAN** to **K. ABHINAV KARAN**, henceforth he shall be known and called as **K. ABHINAV KARAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 1st March 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **V. SRINIVASA REDDY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Girish Patil**, S/o. Late Sri. Shivalingegowda Basavanagowda Patil, R/at Flat No. 404 112, Haritha Apartment, 11th Cross, 5th Main, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 003, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GIRISH SHIVANGOWDA PATIL** to **GIRISH PATIL** vide affidavit dated 23.01.2025 sworn to before Aruna .V, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHANDAN DEVINDER KUMAR GANDHI, resident of BS 8 Banyan Tree Apartments, Kariyammana Agrahara Rd, Varthur Hobli, Kadubeesanhalli, Bengaluru- 560103, have changed my name to CHANDAN DEVINDER GANDHI vide affidavit dated: 01.03.2025 before Advocate and Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, Mr. ANNASAHEB R PATIL AND **SUREKHA PATIL** Residing at: No.113, B Block, Century Commander vista, Anathapura Attur Main road, Behind Ramanashree California Resort, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560064., have changed my name from **HRITIK** to **HRITIK PATIL,** vide affidavit dated 1/3/2025 sworn to before G.R.Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SOMPURANAM** mother of NO JC-441537F, SUB DHANDAPANI P, Residing at House NO 3/211, Muppadhavatti (vill), Kaspa / Arcot (post), Arcot (TK), Vellore (Dist), TAMIL NADU (state), PIN: 632503, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) SAMPOORNAM,** and **DOB** from **07.11.1950** to **05.04.1952** Vide Affidavit Dated 25.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary S.I.BALAGURU BANGALORE

DECLARATION
I, Smt.R.MAMATHA, D/o Ramachandra Rao, W/o K.Deepak Pawar, aged about 46years, residing at No.16, 3rd Cross, Sudheendra Nagar, Kodandaramapuram, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. My name mentioned in SSLC as MAMATHA YADAV.R, and in Pan card, Aadhar card, Voter Id, My marriage certificate & Ration card mentioned as R.MAMATHA.
Declaring that MAMATHA YADAV.R & R.MAMATHA both names are same and belongs to me only and **my correct name is R.MAMATHA,** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 28.Feb.2025 sworn before Notary and advocate Prakasha.C, Bengaluru-560079.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARATHI HAROSAGARA MATA HEMAIAH** W/o **Priyankar Kothari** aged about 31 Years R/at No.349, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross 1st Block, Bengaluru- 560011 have changed my name to **AARTHI HAROSAGARA MATA HEMAIAH** vide affidavit dated: 11/2/2025 Before Notary **Mohammed Hussain.K** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUMATHI SATHISH,** W/o M.V. Sathish Chandra, age 59 years, R/at No. 126, Sai Skanda, 6th Main, Opp. Vaibhav Theatre Postal Colony, Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore North, RMV Extension 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 094 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUMATHI SHIVARAMAN** to **SUMATHI SATHISH,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUMATHI SATHISH** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **B. NAGARAJA**, S/o Bettegowda, age 57 years, R/at #30, Vijaya NR Kuvempu Ranga Mandira Halth Layout, Srigandhadakaval, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560 091 do hereby declaer that both the names i.e. **B. NAGARAJA** and **B. NAGARAJ** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **B. NAGARAJA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.R. PADMANABHAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Abdul Habeeb C A**, S/o. C K Abdul Rahiman, aged about 45 years, Residing at Bismillah Manzil, No. 26/2, 2nd Main Road, Near Ayappa Swammy Temple, Ayappa Garden, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560008, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **C A Abdullah Hafiz** to **C A Abdullah Haafeez** and henceforth my minor son shall be known as **C A Abdullah Haafeez** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 27.02.2025, sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MEGHA RATHI, aged about 33 years, DOB: 07-09-1991 and resident of Flat No. 553, Uber Verdant Phase – 1, Sarjapur Road, Doddakannalli, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560035, have changed my name to MEGHA LOHIYA vide affidavit dated: 01.03.2025 before Advocate and Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, UMAMAHESWARI BALASUB RAMANYAM, D/o Madurai Venu Mudaliar, is legally wedded spouse of Late. BALASUBRAMANYAM. C, aged about 67 Years, Presently Residing at No 28A, Shivamayam, 3rd cross, 9th Main, Sapthagirinagar, Hosakerehalli, Bengaluru : 560085, have changed my name from **Umamaheshwari.B** and **UMA MAHESHWARI** to **UMAMAHESWARI BALASUBRAMANYAM,** vide affidavit dated 28/2/2025 sworn to before R.S.Vijay Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) USHA KUMARI P,** mother of NO 16114323L HAV, JAYAKRISHNAN V, Residing at Usha Nivas, Sooranad North (vill), Anayadi (post), Kunnathoor (Tehsil), Kollam (Dist), KERALA (State), PIN: 690561, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) USHA KUMARY P** , and **DOB** from **01.07.1965** to **26.01.1966** Vide Affidavit Dated 25.02.2025 Sworn Before Notary S.I.BALAGURU BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHINMAYA,** aged 48 years, S/o. Anjaneyamoorthy Kadekopla, Residing at TF-1, "A" Block, Akshaya Kuteera, 6th Main, 5th Cross, Near Subrahmanya Mutt, Akshaya Nagara, Begur, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name from **CHINMAYA** to **CHINMAYA UPADHYA**, vide Affidavit Dated. 1/3/2025 before Notary **GANGARAJU. B.N** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. NAGAVENI .M,** age 44 years, D/o Muniyappa, W/o Sri Kumar, R/at Muddinapalya, Shivakote Post, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk-560 089 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NAGARATHNA .M** to **NAGAVENI .M,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **NAGAVENI .M** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 4th December 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PUTTARAMAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **K.P.BINA, BINA K.P** AND **KAVESSERY PARAMESWARAN BINA** (Old Names), D/o. KAVESSERY PARAMESWARAN, aged 77 years, Residing at NO.33/3, ANNASWAMY MUDALIAR ROAD, NEXT TO HOME GUARDS, SIVAN CHETTY GARDEN, ULSOOR LAKE, BENGALURU-560042, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **K.P.BINA, BINA K.P.** AND **KAVESSERY PARAMESWARAN BINA** (Old Names) to **BINA PARAMESWARAN** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **BINA PARAMESWARAN** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated :1/3/2025 before Notary **S.I. BALAGURU** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) VINCENT S/o. AMBROSE, residing at No.B-1658, BDA Flat, south road, Yerappa garden, Austin Town, viveknagar post, Bangalore-47, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) VINCENT** to **(NEW NAME) WILSON.A** vide affidavit dated 01.03.2025 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GNANESHWAR M V** aged about 26 years S/o Vijay M Residing at No. 805/N, Ground Floor, 15th Cross, Jayanagar 7th Block, Near KR Road, JSS Circle, Bangalore - 560 070 Declare that **GNANESHWAR M V** and **KARTHIK M V** both Names is refer to me only. I have changed my Name from **GNANESHWAR M V** to **KARTHIK M V.** Henceforth, i will be known as **KARTHIK M V** for all my future purpose. Vide Affidavit dated: 28.02.2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G. Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRAVEEN, S/o Gadigeppa Shiggavi, resident of Nandi Citadel Block-B307, Akshaya Vana Chandrashekarapura, Noble Residency Road, Off Bannerghatta Road, 1st A main, VTC: Bangalore South, PO; Bannerghatta Road, Sub District: Bangalore South, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka, PIN Code: 560076 have changed my name to PRAVEEN G SHIGGAVI vide affidavit dated: 01.03.2025 before Advocate and Notary C.N. Balasubramanyam, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HARPREETKAUR MANJITSINGH SHIKH W/o SARABJIT SINGH. Residing at #C302, POCKET 3, VASANT VIHAR AWHO, BILMARANAHALLI, VIDYANAGAR, DIST-BENGALURU, KARNATAKA:-562157. have changed my name from **HARPREETKAUR MANJITSINGH SHIKH** to **HARPREET KAUR,** vide affidavit dated 28/2/2025 sworn to before G.R.Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

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I'm beyond excited to have Shivanna back on sets : Karthik Adwaith

After bravely battling cancer, Shivarajkumar will return to acting with the film, tentatively titled *Shivanna 131*

A SHARADHAA

SHIVARAJKUMAR, whose infectious energy has made him a household name, is ready to conquer the screen once again. After bravely battling cancer and undergoing surgery in Miami, the actor, fondly known as The Century Star and Hattrick Hero, has not wasted any time in returning to his true passion: acting. With renewed vigour, Shivarajkumar will resume filming for his next project, tentatively titled *Shivanna 131*, starting today.

The actor was present at the inauguration of the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), held on Friday, and expressed his gratitude for the immense support of his fans and well-wishers during his recovery. "All your prayers and good wishes have brought me here," he said. "I am starting work on Monday with the same energy and power."

Karthik Adwaith, director of *Shivanna 131*, shared his excitement on social media, writing, "A stronger comeback is just one of the things Deva is known for. Welcome back, King!" Speaking to *CE* about the film's progress, he added, "Before Shivanna took a break for his treatment, we had completed 25 per cent of the shooting. Now, with his return, we are ready to pick up right where we left off. Shivanna brings so much energy to the set, and I'm beyond excited to have him back. We'll begin shooting the talky portions, and that will continue throughout the month. We've been in constant communication with him over these past months, and we're not nervous—just happy to welcome him back. We now have to match his level of energy."

Shivarajkumar will be stepping into the role of Deva in the film, a part unlike anything he's done before. Produced by SN Reddy and Sudheer P under the Bhuvaneswari Pictures banner, the movie promises to showcase a never-before-seen side of the iconic actor. Joining Shivarajkumar on screen is Naveen Shankar, who will play the antagonist in their first-ever collaboration. Other notable cast members include Madhu Guruswamy and several other actors, whose names will be announced soon.

The film's music is composed by Sam CS, known for his work on *Vikram Vedha, RDX,* and *Kaithi*. This marks his Kannada debut. The editing duties are being handled by Deepu S Kumar, while Ravi Santehaklu is serving as the film's art director. DOP Mahendra Simha, who previously worked with Shivarajkumar on *Tagaru* and *Ghost*, returns as the cinematographer for this project.

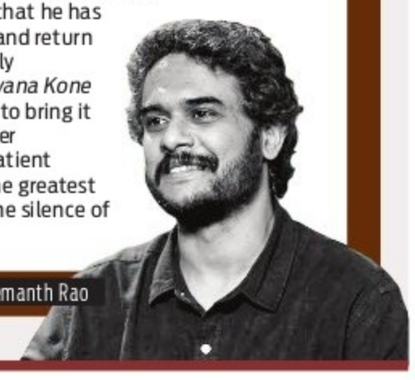
Shivanna to Join Ram Charan's RC 16

Shivarajkumar is set to juggle two major projects. He will also join the sets of Ram Charan's upcoming film, tentatively titled RC 16. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film is a sports drama, and Shivarajkumar will play a significant role in it.

Shivarajkumar and team

'WE ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO *BHAIRAVANA KONE PAATA*'

Director Hemanth M Rao has dismissed rumours that his project *Bhairavana Kone Paata*, starring Shivarajkumar, has been shelved. Calling the claims "baseless," Rao reassured fans that the ambitious film is very much on track, despite the significant effort it demands from its cast and crew. Taking to social media, Rao clarified, "The rumours about *Bhairavana Kone Paata* being shelved are completely unfounded. BKP is a massive project in terms of scale and intensity, particularly for the actors. Shivanna's dedication is unmatched. He's from a different era—his work ethic is extraordinary. He'll push himself to the limit to bring joy to the audience. It's up to us, the makers, to capture that raw energy while ensuring his comfort in the process." Produced by Dr Vaishak J Gowda under the banner VJF - Vaishak J Films, the film recently revealed the first look of Shivarajkumar, donned in striking armor and sporting a salt-and-pepper hairstyle. Hemanth also mentioned Shivarajkumar's need for time to recover after battling personal challenges, ensuring that he has all the space to heal and return to his best. "We're fully committed to *Bhairavana Kone Paata* and can't wait to bring it to life. As the character Bhairava says, 'The patient warrior knows that the greatest victories are won in the silence of the mind.'"



Hemanth Rao

Sharon Horgan

to write and star in comedy series

CE FEATURES

ACCLAIMED creator and star of *Bad Sisters* and Catastrophe, Sharon Horgan, has entered into a two-year agreement with HBO. Under this deal, the network has already committed to a new comedy series that Horgan will write, executive produce, and star in. The untitled project has received a straight-to-series order.

Prior to this agreement, Horgan had a first-look deal with Apple TV, which resulted in the critically acclaimed Bad Sisters. The show has completed two seasons and is currently awaiting confirmation for a third.

The upcoming HBO series will centre around a 50-year-old woman navigating the complexities of dating and romance after divorce while simultaneously caring for her ageing parents and managing the challenges of parenting a son who should already be independent, according to the show's official description.

Horgan also appeared in *This Way Up* and the feature film *Game Night*. Additionally, she has lent her voice to animated projects such as Fox's *HouseBroken* and *Bob's Burgers*, as well as Netflix's Disenchantment.

Hemanth M Rao backed *Agnyathavasi* gets a release date

CE FEATURES

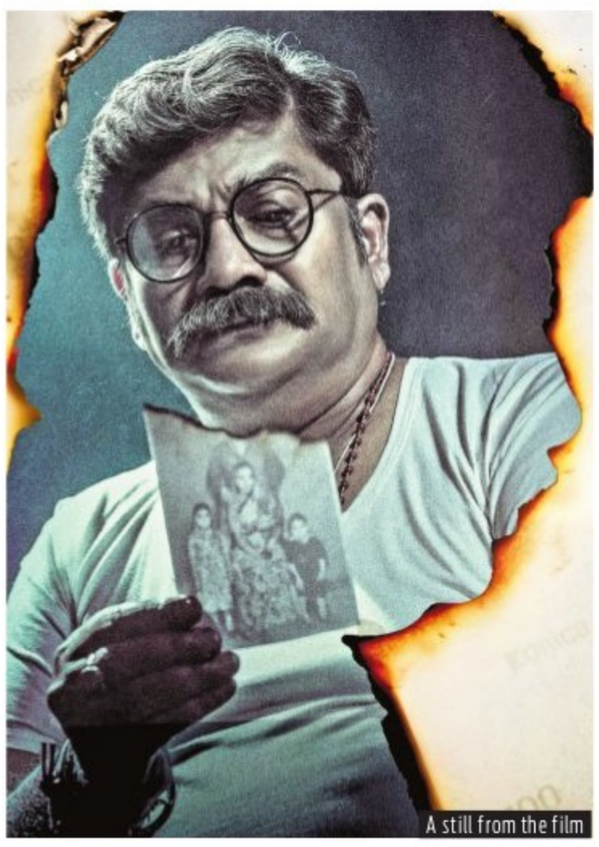
A Janardhan Chikkanna directorial, the film starring Rangayana Raghu in the lead is made under Dakshayani Talkies

HEMANTH M RAO, renowned for directing films like *Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu, Kavaludaari,* and *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello,* as well as co-producing *Humble Politiciann Nograj*, is stepping into the role of a full-fledged producer with the film Agnyathavasi. In honour of his late mother, Hemanth has established his own production house, Dakshayani Talkies, and *Agnyathavasi* marks its first project, which is set to hit the screens on April 11.

Directed by Janardhan Chikkanna, famous for his work on *Gultoo*, *Agnyathavasi*'s trailer was released some time ago and has already generated a lot of excitement among audiences. The film features Rangayana Raghu in the lead role, supported by Paavana Gowda, Siddu Moolimani, Sharath Lohithaswa, Ravishankar Gowda, and many more in key roles.

The story, penned by Janardhan Chikkanna (a mentee of Krishna Raj), is inspired by a chilling murder that took place in the Malenadu region in 1997. According to the makers, this murder mystery promises to offer a fresh take on the genre, one that has never been seen before in Kannada cinema.

Agnyathavasi has cinematography by Advaitha Gurumurthy, music by Charan Raj, editing by Bharath MC, and production design by Ullas Hydoor.



A still from the film

A still from the film

YOGARAJ BHAT-E KRISHNAPPA'S *MANADA KADALU* SETS RELEASE DATE

CE FEATURES

EIGHTEEN years after the massive success of *Mungaru Male,* celebrated director Yogaraj Bhat and renowned producer E Krishnappa are reuniting for yet another romantic drama, titled *Manada Kadalu*. The film, produced by EK Entertainers Pictures, is all set to hit the screens on March 28. The release date was officially revealed through an announcement video, which also featured a playful nod to *Mungaru Male,* starring Golden Star Ganesh, Pooja Gandhi, and Anant Nag. Sumukha, who had previously starred in Physics Teacher, plays the lead in *Manada Kadalu*, along with Rashika Shetty and Anjali Anish as the female leads. The film has an ensemble cast that includes Rangayana Raghu and Dattanna. The glimpse video, featuring the cast and a quirky cameo by rabbits, takes us down the memory lane, reminiscent of the magic that Mungaru Male brought to the Kannada film industry in 2006.

The songs of *Manada Kadalu,* which have become chartbusters, are composed by V Harikrishna.

TIME FOR VIJAY RAGHAVENDRA TO BREAK FREE FROM KHAKI ROLES

CE FEATURES

VIJAY RAGHAVENDRA, known for his khaki-clad characters in films, once again steps into the role of a police officer in *FIR 6 to 6*. Having gained attention for playing law enforcement officers, the actor's role as Inspector Garuda raises questions if the film stands on its own merit or simply follows a predictable formula that has worked in the past.Filmmaking workshops

With an uninspired title that merely signifies the time frame during which the events unfold, the film kicks off with an action-packed sequence, introducing Garuda (Vijay Raghavendra) in a tense atmosphere, driving through the city, seemingly ready for action. However, it soon descends into a confusing mess of disjointed subplots that fail to come together cohesively.

Garuda's wife, Jyothi (Siri Raju), is trapped in their home as a group of miscreants attempts to break in. While Garuda races against time to save her, the narrative soon veers off course with multiple subplots. A girl tries to elope, only to fall into the hands of a dangerous man. A couple attending a wedding is caught by goons. And as if that weren't enough, the film introduces yet another subplot involving drunken men causing chaos at a bar and chasing a man through the city.

Ramana Raj KV, who makes his directorial debut, struggles to juggle these competing storylines. The result is a film that feels cluttered, disoriented, and unbalanced. The pacing alternates between moments of urgency and dragged-out scenes that dilute the tension. In few instances, Garuda's character keeps checking his watch and phone in a moment of urgency, but the next scene meanders through unrelated subplots, killing any momentum. The film transitions from a pub scene to an elopement attempt without any real sense of cohesion, making it hard to invest in the story.

RATING 2/5

The attempts at comic relief, seemingly intended to lighten the mood, feel forced and awkward, ultimately undermining the plot's serious tone.

FIR 6 to 6's main plotline, which holds potential for a gripping thriller, falters due to poor direction and uninspiring performances. Additionally, Vijay Raghavendra's portrayal of Garuda fails to elevate the story. His character is yet another run-of-the-mill cop which follows predictable paths. The actor offers little emotional depth in the role, making it difficult for the audience to connect with his journey.

FIR 6 TO 6

Director: Ramana Raj KV

Cast: Vijay Raghavendra, Siri Raju, Yash Shetty Swathi Satish, and Yashaa S

A drug mafia subplot is introduced later in the film, but it feels more like a last-minute addition than an organic part of the story. This narrative twist only serves to muddle the plot further. As the story progresses, it shifts focus back to Garuda, revealing a challenge from the antagonist (Yash Shetty), who only appears in the final scenes. Garuda is tasked with keeping a group of miscreants in prison for at least one night, before filing an FIR, a concept designed to justify the title *FIR 6 to 6*. However, neither the writing nor the direction builds any real suspense or excitement around this premise, rendering it largely irrelevant to the larger story.

The final stretch of the film—another predictable chase sequence—lacks excitement and falls flat. Garuda, despite being an experienced cop, engages in a chase that strains the film's believability. At one point, he's seen driving through the city, only to take illogical hours to reach his house, creating a glaring inconsistency in the film's logic.

Further, the makers resort to unnecessarily objectifying the female lead and another female character, which feels out of place in the story.

Despite Vijay Raghavendra's solid track record, his performance feels unoriginal and overly familiar. The film attempts to juggle too many themes—from family drama to elopement, drug mafias to cop chases— but fails to execute any of them effectively. With underwhelming performances and a convoluted storyline, *FIR 6 to 6* ends up as a tedious and forgettable watch. One would hope that they could have rehashed familiar tropes more engagingly, but that doesn't happen. His role in *FIR 6 to 6* makes it clear that Vijay Raghavendra is tired of playing the same old roles. Perhaps it's time he takes a break from his khaki-clad characters and explores new territories that challenge his acting range and bring fresh depth to his performances.